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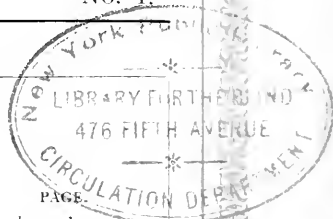
A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
:: :: INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. :: ::

VOL. XIV. JANUARY, 1916.

No. I.

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THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND,
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The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

JANUARY, 1916.

NO. 1.

The National Institute for the Blind.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE BUILDING.

IN this number of *The Braille Review* we are giving a description of our Institute, for we feel sure that there are many of our readers who have not yet had an opportunity of hearing a detailed account of it.

The new building has frontages in Great Portland Street and Bolsover Street, being a few minutes from the Portland Road Station on the Metropolitan Railway. The street frontage on both sides is 60 feet and there are 100 feet from street to street. The site has been taken from Lord Howard de Walden on a lease of 999 years.

The Great Portland Street frontage consists of basement, sale room, administrative offices, Armitage Hall, the offices of The Home Teaching Society, with a commodious restaurant on the top floor, and a roof garden above.

The seven stories fronting Bolsover Street consist of basement, and warehouse (for packing and distributing goods), while the first, second, third and fourth floors are for the ordinary printing of letterpress, and for the stereotyping, embossing and binding of books in Braille type. On the fifth floor is the Massage establishment, on the sixth is the Library of The Home Teaching Society, while the seventh is devoted to the caretakers of the building.

To begin with the sale room:—This is a beautifully-fitted room where all books and apparatus for the blind are displayed. There is also a very interesting museum of books and appliances that are obsolete, which show the evolution of work in the direction of embossing for the blind for the past 130 years. Some of the ideas shown there will doubtless be incorporated in new apparatus. There are also in the shop a number of show cases containing goods made by the blind, for which orders can be taken.

The first, second and third floors are devoted to the administrative offices. The Armitage Hall, which takes up the whole of the next floor, is capable of seating about 250 people. This room is available for meetings in connection with the work of the Institute. Its great feature is an organ, which is a facsimile of that at the Royal College of Organists in Kensington Gore. Recital stops have been fitted so that blind musicians are able to give recitals, though the primary use of the

instrument is to afford professional practice to the blind, that students may enter for the examinations of the Royal College without being handicapped by an unfamiliar instrument. At the same time they will be able to demonstrate to the public that, given proper education and facilities, blind musicians can hold their own with the sighted. A bronze bust of Dr. T. R. Armitage is to be placed in the Hall.

As regards the restaurant, this was started with the idea of providing the employees of the Institute—many of whom are blind—with good food at the bare cost of material. The food is freshly cooked every day in a splendidly-equipped and spacious kitchen, so that it is not to be wondered at that the restaurant is very well patronised.

The roof garden on the top of the building will be very acceptable in the summer-time, during the lunch hour.

A portion of the basement of the Institute is 30 feet deep, 30 feet wide, and 50 feet long, and forms a big underground chamber fitted with four tiers of shelving, each seven feet high and of which there are over four miles. This chamber is capable of holding about 75,000 large Braille volumes, thus forming a splendid store-room for the Institute's great stock of books.

The printing department is equipped with the most up-to-date machinery, with every modern device, such as fast-running hot embossing presses—capable of printing 24,000 pages of Braille per hour—a book-stitching machine which stitches books on tapes at the rate of 200 volumes per day, folding machines, guillotines, glueing machines, etc. In this connection it is instructive to learn that the Institute turns out 3,000 large bound embossed books, and 10,000 newspapers, magazines, etc., every month, and is, during this year, committed to the production of no less than 30,000 large two-page book plates, in addition to the usual output of embossed periodicals, music, and urgent work which must be dealt with. The whole of the printing of the Institute is done on the premises and is of the best workmanship possible. Catalogues, reports, circulars, *The Braille Review* are all done here, and there is a press for turning out the highest class of colour printing.

In the Massage department, where blinded soldiers and civilians are taught how to become masseurs, there is an office, a well-equipped gymnasium, a class and dressing rooms, while embossed books on massage are provided. The Institute also possesses the finest anatomical models procurable, there being a life-size model of a human being, every part of which can be removed. This model cost about £100. There is also an articulated skeleton, sets of bones, a perfect model of the human heart, and a variety of skulls.

The Institute is of course on the public telephone, and has its own private installation. The switch-room is in the hall, controlled by a blind lady operator, who has become so expert at her work that she can detect the sound of the various bull's-eye shutters as they fall, though to the ordinary person all such sounds seems exactly the same. She wears a head-gear receiver and a breast-plate transmitter so that her hands are free to manipulate the switch board and record waiting messages by the means of Braille Shorthand. The internal telephone installation consists of a large number of instruments and a self-acting

exchange which is purely automatic, being worked by a series of electrical and mechanical contrivances which are nothing less than uncanny in their action. Similar systems have been installed at post offices and it has been found possible to work 10,000 subscribers by this means.

Another interesting feature of the building is the 40 electric clocks, which really consist of little but dials and hands with small mechanism behind each. All are worked from one master clock which is electrically driven and electrically regulated, while every one is put to the correct time on the sixtieth second of the sixtieth minute of each hour by telegraphy.

Vacuum cleaning is fitted throughout the whole building and is worked by a powerful motor in the basement. This provides for all dust being sucked away, so that the whole place can be kept clean with a minimum of labour.

The heating of the Institute is provided for by two large vertical tubular boilers generating steam. This steam passes into two calorifiers which supply all hot water in the building. The same steam is used for cooking which is also done by this means or by gas.

In the basement is a mechanics' shop with a qualified mechanic and electrician to look after all machinery and motors, of which latter there are 50. The shop is fitted with up-to-date machinery and has been found useful in making munitions for the Government.

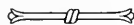
Enough has been said we think to show that the Institute is a building worthy of the cause to which it is devoted. It is, moreover a monument in which the blind community and those who have played a part in its erection may feel a justifiable pride.



The late Mr. F. J. Munby.

IN January of last year it was our sorrowful duty to record the death of Mr. F. J. Munby, the well-known and beloved Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, King's Manor, York, who passed away on the 12th of December, 1914.

We have just received from his family a little book, "Memories of Frederick James Munby, 1837-1914," which makes a charming and valuable memento of Mr. Munby's life.



Death of Mr. Arthur C. Stericker.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Arthur C. Stericker, L.R.C.M., at the age of fifty-four.

Mr. Stericker had been for many years organist of the South United Free Church, Aberdeen, having been born in Hull, where he received his early education at the York School for the Blind. He was an admirable musician, and was the inventor of the musical system for the blind known as "The Seven Digits System of Point Writing Musical Notation." His loss will be mourned by a wide circle of friends.

THE WAR FROM A NEW ANGLE.

Blinded in Battle yet Triumphant.

By E. M. EVORS.

TO pay a visit to St. Dunstan's Hostel, near Hanover Gate, Regent's Park, is the most soul-inspiring thing in the world. For here over a hundred of our blinded soldiers and sailors—victims of the devastating war—are confronted with the gigantic task of remodelling the whole of their lives to fit a state of sightlessness. And they are grappling with it, day by day, with a pluck and fortitude so amazing and admirable as to be nothing less than a spiritual miracle.

There are, of course, stages in this magnificent transformation of tragedy; but, when the first inevitable spell of bitterness is over, life becomes at first possible, then tolerable, and finally comes the great consolation of the blind—a cheerful content. At St. Dunstan's the men are, as their friend, Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, puts it, "taught to be blind," and the note of the place is cheerfulness and optimism. They are tremendously encouraged by the fact that the teachers in most cases are themselves blind, and therefore know from personal experience exactly how best to impart their lessons.

"When the blind are all together," said Mr. Pearson, "the point of view at once becomes changed: to be blind becomes a normal thing, and it is accepted without hopelessness. Of course, a little time is needed for the men to get used to the new conditions. A blind man's tendency, for instance, until he is taught to be blind, is to stand stock-still, helpless. This stage is very quickly bridged over at St. Dunstan's, because everything is arranged to facilitate movement without disastrous bumps and blunders. The linoleum-covered floors have a central path of matting, the feel of which soon gives confidence. Outside, on the stone terrace, are paths of sheet lead; while warning signals in the shape of boards are laid flush with the ground before steps, walls, trees and other obstacles. When a certain degree of confidence is gained we try to arrange to send the men home for a week or so to see their friends, before acquiring the occupation which is to be their livelihood.

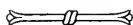
"Every man here spends two and a half hours a day in studying Braille-reading and writing and the use of the typewriter. Those who were formerly shorthand-typists are mastering a condensed form of Braille, which they take down on a Braille shorthand-machine, and transcribe from the tape to the typewriter. Each man is fitted out with a typewriter when he leaves St. Dunstan's, so gifts of machines or money to buy them are welcome. Training in most subjects occupies about six months. Some of the first-comers are now being established in their new outside world as carpenters, poultry-farmers, mat-and-basket-makers, cobblers, and so on, thus making way for fresh drafts from the hospitals.

"Massage is an occupation in which the blind are wonderfully successful, and at the National Institute in Great Portland Street, which is equipped with a special gymnasium, containing skeleton and models for the scientific training of *masseurs*, many of the soldiers are acquiring the art.

"Our newest idea is to make divers of likely men with mechanical training. This is clearly a job for the blind man, since the diver who builds piers and breakwaters works in the dark. Moreover, the diver is one of the best paid of workmen. An attendant looks after him while down below and when he comes to the surface."

Then Mr. Pearson, using his stick, conducted this writer very successfully through the spacious common-room into the Braille and typewriting class-room; thence by way of the terrace to the grounds to see the workshops, where great activity and skill were exemplified in feats of carpentry, boot-repairing, door-mat and basket-making. After examining a beautifully finished poultry "foster-mother," a carpenter's bench with cupboards, an expanding table, a wooden tea-tray, picture-frames and many other creations of the blind magicians, we made our way to the poultry-farming quarter. Here, aided by the arrangement of gates and pens, railings and coops, a blind man of the capable soldier type soon learns how to catch fowls, drive them from one plot to another, collect the eggs, and so on. A lesson in fowl-trussing was going on in a shed.

The favourite recreation during the summer was rowing on the lake. This exercise is now being replaced by push-ball, specially arranged for blind players; while indoors dancing has been taken up with great verve and enjoyment by the men, and by eager girls, who ask "for the pleasure." The blinded officers sleep at 21, Portland Place, a house lent for the purpose by Sir John Stirling Maxwell, but they go to St. Dunstan's for training. Swimming is another joy, and the soldiers have been granted the use of the Marylebone Baths for an hour on three days a week. Mr. Pearson remarked upon the curious coincidence that more than a third of the English soldiers at St. Dunstan's in October were Lancashire men. There were also a number of Scots and Irishmen, and two from gallant little Wales.—*The Graphic*, Dec. 4th, 1915.



The Blinded Soldier.

Oh! poor, blinded and maimed in the midst of God's wonderful world,
Filled with the scent of flowers, gay with its flags unfurled,
Wanting a hand to aid, seeking a way to live.
Hark! The blind soldier is calling. What are you going to give?

Will you give a ring or a necklace, a cheque or a falling tear?
Will you give a hand to help one who is waiting here?
Will you lend him the eyes to see with, assist to make him whole?
A blinded brother—a soldier, soul of your inmost soul.

Cheers will not keep him going, tears he cannot see.
Proud, he would never ask aught of your charity.
Come from the deeps of your pocket, come from the love in your heart.
He gave his eyes for England—what is to be your part?

—From *The Premier Magazine*, Dec., 1915.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE BLIND.—No. VII.

V

Mr. Alfred Hollins.

MR. ALFRED HOLLINS was born at Hull on September 11th, 1865. Although he was practically born blind we shall be able to show that he has not allowed this great handicap to stand in the way of a life of fruitful and earnest labour.

At a very early age he showed musical ability to a very marked degree. In a biographical sketch that appeared in the *Musical Times* of October, 1901, he says: "A dear aunt gave me my first lessons on the piano. She taught me well as far as she could, so I always feel that I owe her something."

When he was six years old he went to live with his grandmother in York. From his earliest years he showed that he had the possession of an extraordinarily "keen" ear.

In 1874 he entered the Wilberforce School for the Blind, at York, where he remained for three years, his music master being Mr. William Barnby, eldest brother of the late Sir Joseph Barnby, though, as is the case with so many successful men, he taught himself perhaps more than he was taught.

He used to play at the school concerts on an old G organ with C pedals, discovering unaided the various qualities of the stops, so that he soon discovered the various combinations necessary for solo-playing. In good truth he is a shining example of the principles of "Self-Help."

In January, 1878, young Hollins entered the Royal Normal College for the Blind, at Upper Norwood. He there studied chiefly the piano-forte, under Mr. Fritz Hartvigson, of whose capabilities as a teacher he speaks very highly.

After he had been four months at Norwood the boy was allowed to have organ lessons with Dr. E. J. Hopkins, organ professor at the College, and he soon made rapid strides.

His first important public appearance was when, under Mr. Manns, he played Beethoven's Pianoforte Concerto in E flat at the Crystal Palace.

An incident, not without its humorous side, of those Norwood days may find a place here, told in Mr. Hollins's own words:—"My first teacher at Norwood was one of the senior lady pupils, a Miss Campbell, a truly delightful soul, a beautiful singer, and an admirable musician. I suppose I must have been like many impetuous youths, I thought there was nothing like the extreme modern music. Miss Campbell was very anxious to bring me up in the true faith, and to instil into me a love for the old school of music. I used to come home from the Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts wild with delight whenever we had had anything ultra modern. At last I hit upon a novel plan for impressing the names of the new composers on my friend and teacher. I purchased two dozen small dolls, and tied round the neck of each the name, written in Braille characters, of one of the most modern musicians I could recall. These four and twenty puppets I sent to Miss Campbell, with a note, saying that these were "*the boys*"! Amongst "*the boys*" was Frederick Corder. Soon after, something of his was played at the Palace. After I got home and had sat down to

tea I found on my plate a neat little parcel. Upon opening it I discovered a pill-box, which contained one of my poor little dolls cut up into tiny pieces, and with the dissected "boy" the following lines:—

'Behold him in his resting place!
No doubt you wish it broader,
Believe me. Sir, it's good enough
For such a wretch as Corder!'

"In reply to this, I got a jam tart into which I put the pieces of the luckless Corder and sent it to Miss Campbell. She at once discovered something hard in the pastry, and soon found out that the unpalatable portion was Corder. A few days later I received from her one of those penny ducks on a stand, one of the species which, when it is nipped, squeaks. When I shook it I heard a rattling of the bird's internals which explained the accompanying lyric:—

The soul of F. Corder
Somewhat out of order,
First entered a tartlet, it did, on my word!
By jam aggravated,
It once more migrated,
And lodged in this ill-fated, innocent bird.

As I couldn't beat that, I never retaliated. To this day I treasure that innocent bird with the pieces of Corder inside him. I have since got to know Mr. Corder, and have learnt to appreciate him more than ever as my composition master and friend."

In 1882, at the age of sixteen, Mr. Hollins had the honour of playing to Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle.

In October, 1884, Hollins, a youth of eighteen, was appointed organist of St. John's Church, Redhill, where he remained till February, 1888. And when it is realised that it was necessary for the young organist to learn the whole of the Psalms and the pointing of the Cathedral Psalter from Braille, our readers will have some idea of the patience and industry brought to bear in his work.

For a time Hollins studied the pianoforte under Hans von Bülow in Berlin. It was in 1885, at the Inventions Exhibition, Kensington, London, that he was first brought into prominence before the public as an organist.

In 1886 he accompanied Dr. Campbell, of the Norwood College, to America, as one of a quartette of blind performers, and met with instant recognition in the States. In 1887 we find him at the Raff Conservatorium at Frankfort for further study with Hans von Bülow. Here he also studied under Max Schwarz.

On April 10th, 1886, he played at one of the famous Popular Concerts at St. James's Hall, and on May 31st, 1888, performed Beethoven's E flat Pianoforte Concerto at the Philharmonic Concert. At the end of the same year he paid a second visit to America, and gave many successful organ recitals. For nine years he was professor of pianoforte and organ at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, where he himself had been so earnest a student.

In October, 1888, he was appointed the first organist of the People's Palace, which post he held for fourteen months, while in the same year he accepted the position of organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Upper Norwood, a post he held for nine years.

As regards his tenure of that office the minister of the church, the Rev. J. G. Train, wrote :—" Mr. Hollins' facility in acquiring new music is so remarkable that he could put to the blush many sighted players. Of the accuracy and taste of his playing, I need say nothing. He has never to my knowledge made any mistake with regard to the music; and as for following intelligently and with due expression the words of psalms and hymns, I never met with a sighted organist characterized by so much quickness and discernment. In fact, I have never once found any disadvantage from Mr. Hollins' want of sight." Convincing testimony in very truth of the triumph of mind over physical obstacles.

In 1897 Mr. Hollins was induced to cross the Tweed, to become organist of the United Free St. George's Church, Edinburgh, which post he still holds.

If still further proof were wanted of Mr. Hollins' wonderful many-sidedness, we may mention that he has drafted the specification of a large organ, costing £12,000 for Johannesburg Town Hall, South Africa, to be erected by Messrs. Norman & Beard, of Norwich, and to be tested by Mr. Hollins, who will himself go to Johannesburg and publicly open the instrument.

In connection with Mr. Hollins' visit to Johannesburg, his opening recital is to be given some time towards the end of February, and after the completion of his engagement there he hopes to be able to give recitals in other South African towns, the whole tour to occupy between four and five months.

As regards Mr. Hollins' connection with the late Dr. Armitage, the following will prove interesting to our readers :—When he first went to the Royal Norwood College, he, in common with several other boys, had a craze for writing out selections of poems. One day he was just putting the title-page to a selection of poems by Longfellow, and had written "L," the contraction for ONG, etc., when Dr. Armitage happened to pass through the school-room. The doctor asked the boy what he was doing, and when young Hollins showed him his writing,—“ Ah,” he said, “ I see one little mistake at first hand, though perhaps you will not know what it is. You have written the L of Longfellow in the back holes followed by the “ong” sign in the front holes, you should write the first letter in the *front* holes and *not* the back.”

Commenting on this Mr. Hollins says that he has noticed since the revision of Braille that this rule has been relaxed, and that he often wonders why.

His school days at York and Norwood were happy ones, but, of course, by far the longest period was spent at Norwood. Amongst his school-fellows were some clever blind men, who have made their mark since, such as Stericker, Schwier, Turner, Wilmot and Hardebeck. In 1886 Mr. Hollins first became acquainted with Wolstenholme, through a great friend of the latter's, but at the time a perfect stranger to him. He gave several recitals at the Inventions Exhibition in 1885, and it was after one of these that that gentleman came up and spoke to him and asked him if he knew Wolstenholme. He said no, but that he had often heard of him. The result was that he went to Blackburn a few months later and there met this greatly-gifted blind man, the beginning of a life-long and firm friendship.

Mr. Hollins has some interesting things to say as to the different methods of working amongst blind musicians. It appears that some can only commit from Braille music, and that *at* the instrument. To others, committing from Braille is a slow and painful process. Mr. Hollins himself uses Braille music, but only when he is not in a hurry. The quickest method for him is to have a composition played over passage by passage, that is to learn it by ear. He never writes his own compositions in Braille, but dictates them to his wife straight out of his head. On the other hand, Mr. Wolstenholme, it seems, can make a perfect Braille copy of his compositions at first hand out of his head, and these hardly need a correction afterwards.

Few blind men have travelled more than Mr. Hollins, who has been to America twice, Australia once, and is now about to make his third journey to South Africa. When going to Australia in 1904, among his fellow-passengers on the *Ortona* were Mr. Paderewski and his wife, and manager, Mr. Adlington. It is interesting to hear that Mr. Hollins has never lost touch with Paderewski ; "perhaps the most courteous man I have ever met," to quote the own words of the subject of our biography. On board ship, except when the weather was too unbearably hot, or the sea too rough, Paderewski would practice at a little Erard Cottage piano, put in one of the alleyways of the ship, for four or five hours every day. The famous pianist never did many actual technical exercises, preferring to take difficult passages out of his large repertoire of pieces and use them as exercises, but he always began with a few scales, first in similar, then in contrary motion. He told Mr. Hollins that one requires a different technique for each composer. Thus, he would devote one day's practice to Beethoven, another to Chopin, another to Liszt, and so on.

Amongst the celebrated musicians whom Mr. Hollins has met, in addition to Mr. Paderewski, there may be mentioned Rubenstein, Klindworth, Liszt, Bülow, Pachmann, D'Albert, Madame Schumann, Joachim, Richter, Sir John Stainer, and Best.

Mention must be made of Mr. Hollins' composition, a list of the chief of which we append:—

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.—*Organ*: Concert Overture in C major; Concert Overture in C minor; Andante in D; Grand Chœur in G minor; Grand Chœur in C major; Concert Rondo; Allegretto grazioso in A; Intermezzo in D flat; Benediction Nuptiale; Triumphal March; Wedding March; Spring Song; Introductory voluntary in A; Pastorale in F; King Edward Coronation March; Two short preludes in C and G; Nocturne in B flat; Twelve voluntaries for harmonium, also arranged for organ; Communion in D; Introductory voluntary in G.

VOCAL MUSIC.—*Anthems*: Rejoice in the Lord (Christmas); O death, where is thy sting? (Easter); The earth is the Lord's (Harvest); O worship the Lord; We sent unto thee (Induction). *Trio for female voices*: Dartside (words by Charles Kingsley). *Songs*: Tears; A life lesson; After Culloden; My Mary; The silver cord; Divided.

In this brief sketch we have only been able to touch on the salient points of Mr. Hollins' life. The space at our disposal unfortunately

precludes a fuller account, though we feel sure that enough has been said to prove what a veritable triumph of mind over matter has been accomplished.

Mrs. Hollins, who has been her husband's invaluable and devoted helpmate for so many years, was formerly a "reader" at the Royal Normal College, at Upper Norwood. We do not think we are betraying any family secrets when we divulge the fact that Mr. Hollins was once heard to speak of his wife as his "better nine-eighths."

Mr. Hollins, by the way, is one of the few musicians who has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.



The Sunderland Workshops.

RE-ESTABLISHED UNDER GOOD AUSPICES.

SHORTLY before the outbreak of the war the Sunderland and Durham County Royal Institute for the Blind was obliged to close its workshops, leaving some forty blind operatives in a state of destitution.

The National Institute for the Blind stepped into the breach, and for a considerable period paid the average weekly wage of the men and women who had been deprived of the means of earning a livelihood. The officials of the Institute paid several visits to Sunderland, and it was finally arranged that the workshops should be carried on pending the completion of the scheme of re-organisation, in which the National Institute pledged itself to take the lead.

The outbreak of the war prevented these plans from coming to maturity, and the temporary arrangements were continued until a few weeks ago. Then matters were brought to a head.

Messrs. T. W. & A. Backhouse, bankers, of Sunderland, to whom the Sunderland Institute owed the sum of £1,650, most generously agreed to write off this amount. Mr. Samuel Storey, whose powerful aid had been evoked, promised to give £500, and enlist the practical sympathy of his friends. The National Institute for the Blind promised a contribution of £1,000.

On November 19th Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, President of the National Institute, addressed an influential meeting at Sunderland, and before it closed the announcement was made that the sum of £4,600, which was needed to enable the debts incurred by the Institute to be cleared off and work to be started on a sound financial basis, had not only been secured, but considerably exceeded.

It is hoped that with the adequate financial resources now at the disposal of the committee and the interest which has been evoked, it will be possible to largely extend the present sphere of operations.

Mr. Pearson, in the course of his speech, begged his audience to cease to think and speak of blind persons as "afflicted," a term which he maintained was quite unsuitable and apt to instil despair instead of hope into their minds. "Blindness," said Mr. Pearson, "is a handicap, not an affliction, and fortunately a handicap which, as is being shown daily by the blinded soldiers at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, can be overcome to a very remarkable degree."

SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND. No. VIII.

**The Royal School of Industry for the Blind,
Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.**

By P. GRAY, Principal.

THE work amongst the blind in Bristol was instituted in the year 1793 and incorporated in 1832, being one of the earliest organisations for the blind in the British Isles. The school was opened in its present premises five years ago, and is in a beautiful suburb of Bristol. It stands in its own grounds of about fourteen acres and is completely isolated from the workshops. These are in the city and provide employment for 40 men and 51 women and are under the same committee. The Association for the Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind, founded in 1857, is amalgamated with the school.

The objects of the institution are broadly five-fold :—

- 1.—To educate the blind, and instruct them in some useful occupation, industrially or professionally, whereby they may be enabled to earn their livelihood.
- 2.—To assist the blind pupils to commence business on their own account.
- 3.—To employ blind day-workers in the institution workshops, and to sell the articles made by them.
- 4.—To keep in touch with those pupils who have left the institution, by means of sponsors, so as to give them every possible assistance in their future lives.
- 5.—To visit the blind in their homes by means of blind visitors to teach them to read, and to lend them books from the library.

MANAGEMENT.—The management is vested in a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, and nineteen members of the general committee. Two members are associated from the Bristol Education Committee and one from the Somerset County Education Committee. Members are re-elected annually at a public meeting by the life-members and the subscribers, when, if necessary, new members are also elected to fill vacancies which may have occurred.

ACCOMMODATION.—The new school has a certified accommodation for 117 boys and girls and at the present moment there are 112 in residence. The school is divided into five complete units comprising :—an infants' department, one for junior boys, one for junior girls, one for senior boys, and one for senior girls. A large central hall, gymnasium, eight class-rooms, music and tuning departments, dining and recreation rooms and sick bay, with kitchens and laundry, are fully equipped. The institution is electrically lighted throughout, and the electricity is generated on the premises. Large apprentice shops are provided for the training of both girls and boys preparatory to their proceeding to their homes or to the general adult workshops.

SCHOLASTIC STAFF.—A principal, a lady clerk, seven fully-qualified teachers, a shoemaker, an instructor in basket-making, an instructor in

mat-making, an instructress in handicrafts, machine stocking-knitting, and Swedish loom work.

DOMESTIC STAFF.—Matron, assistant matron, nurse, fifteen domestic servants, two sewing maids, two porters, an electrician, a fireman, and a gardener.

WORKSHOPS.—There is a complete staff under the general manager, and the female staff operates under the knitting manageress.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.—All the students are examined from time to time by the School Medical Officer, and the Dentist inspects all the teeth *three* times annually, and treats all necessary cases at his surgery. Sick bays for both sexes are provided with accommodation for nurses and domestic isolation during period of sickness.

MUSIC AND TUNING.—Two special departments have been built and fitted for instruction in pianoforte playing and tuning, and a beautifully new organ built after the specifications of the Royal College of Organists is installed in the Central Hall and is electrically blown. The Organist and Choirmaster has the degree of the Fellowship of the R.C.O.

EVENING CLASSES.—Evening Classes under the Board of Education are continuously held in the following subjects:—Swedish gymnastics, drill and gymnastics, reading, writing, needlework, woodwork, English, and appreciation of literature, typewriting and shorthand, singing and musical history. These are all grant earning classes.

RECREATION.—Running wires are fitted up in the recreation field, together with swings and see-saws. Stilt-walking, football, an adapted form of hockey, and swimming are amongst the outdoor sports and pastimes, whilst the usual indoor games are provided.

BLIND SCOUTS.—The school has an excellent troop of Boy Scouts fully enrolled and uniformed. The company is known as the 65th Bristol Boy Scouts, and the marked improvement in the general discipline and mannerly behaviour of the lads is most apparent. The troop takes quite a front part in all the Scout organisations, and different members already possess quite a number of badges.

CURRICULUM.—Instruction is given in the usual elementary subjects together with typewriting and shorthand. The manual occupations are varied, and are selected for their practical utility, comprising:—Basket and straw bag making, bent-iron work, chair-caning, elementary loom work, preparatory to the Swedish loom and mat loom, sewing, needlework and raffia work. A general knowledge of woodwork, with the care and handling of tools is given.

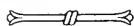
QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION.—Pupils are admitted from the age of five years onwards, and no definite time is adhered to for their entrance, although they generally come after both Christmas and Summer holidays. Applicants are eligible for admission who are either totally blind or not possessed of sufficient sight to read the ordinary school books. They must also be free from bodily and mental defects, which would prevent them receiving instruction or from following some useful occupation.

TERMS.—The terms for pupils are £30 per annum for maintenance and clothing, paid quarterly or half-yearly. It is understood that these

payments are insufficient for maintenance and education, the remainder being supplied from other sources.

HOLIDAYS.—There are holidays twice during the year, viz., five weeks in the Summer and three at Christmas. If the pupils are unable to proceed to a suitably recognised home, arrangements are made for boarding them out and those responsible for the payments are charged with the cost.

PROVISION FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES.—Church of England Services are held at the school on Sundays by the Chaplain who visits for this purpose. He also prepares pupils for Confirmation and arranges general instruction classes in Religious Study. Every Sunday afternoon the pupils go to a special Children's Service at the Parish Church.



Items.

Flag Day for the Blind.

HUNDREDS of collectors, acting under the supervision of W. R. Wade, Esq., Secretary of the Dublin Branch of The National Institute for the Blind, and many prominent Dublin ladies, assisted in all city districts on December 2nd in connection with the Flag Day on behalf of soldiers and sailors blinded in the war. The undertaking proved a great success, the little flags being bought up very rapidly, and everywhere they were worn by all classes of people in outward token of the sympathy evoked.



The Blind Musicians of The National Institute for the Blind.

THE first tour of the "Blind Musicians," recently completed, has been an unqualified success. The first concert was given at the Steinway Hall, London, on November 10th. Following this the party gave a concert at the Battersea Town Hall on November 12th, and Ealing Town Hall on November 14th. They then visited Bath; Newport; Cardiff, where they were assisted by the Cardiff Blue Ribbon Choir; Swansea, at which concert the Swansea District Male Voice Choir participated; Merthyr; and gave a final concert at Cardiff. In addition to these, several shows were given to Soldiers' and Sailors' Clubs, and a Sunday morning service for the Y.M.C.A. soldiers billeted at Cardiff Skating Rink. Madame Regan was the accompanist.

The tour was in every way an unqualified success, and the Press Notices in various local papers testify to the fact that the "Blind Musicians" proved themselves to be artistes of a high order.



Sport and Charity.

THE generosity of the sporting world was amply proved some time ago by the result of the charity show at the National Sporting Club for the benefit of St. Dunstan's. Not less than £685 was realised, a total which speaks for itself, and to quote the *Sporting Times*, of December 11th: "In view of the manner in which sportsmen have been attacked since the war, the total is evidence of their magnanimity."

Mr. James White, Mr. Walter de Frece, and Mr. W. E. Berry were mainly responsible for this splendid result.

On Saturday, December 11th, Madame Clara Butt sang to an appreciative audience of blinded soldiers and sailors from St. Dunstan's at a special service at Westminster Abbey. The soldiers were afterwards entertained at tea by Archdeacon and Mrs. Wilberforce.

* * * *

Pensions for Blinded Officers.

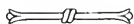
A ROYAL Warrant has been issued as an Army Order, dated December 6th, 1915, giving the scale of pensions for officers disabled in the war. Section 11 of the Warrant is as follows:—

"An officer who has lost the sight of both eyes as the result of wounds received in action shall be granted not less than £300 a year in wounds-pension and retired pay, taken together, provided that the total loss of vision occurs within five years after the wound, and is solely attributable to it."

* * * *

Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Gift Book.

THERE is no form of present more acceptable at any time than a book, and when a gift of such nature can be found which not only provides good literature, but is, at the same time, a means of bringing happiness in a material way to our blinded soldier and sailor heroes, no one need hesitate about investing 3s. in "The Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Gift Book," published by Messrs. Jarrold, for the whole proceeds from the sale of this book are to be devoted to the Fund for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors. Having said this we feel convinced that all those who have not bought the book will at once remedy the omission, thus assuring themselves of the power to bestow a welcome present as well as the knowledge that they are helping a really splendid cause.



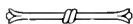
Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility for the views of his correspondents.]

THE STANDARD DOT SYSTEM.

SIR,—So much has hitherto been written *re* the above, by people who are in a better position to judge than myself, and who also have a wider and more far-reaching experience of "dot" systems to back up their statements than I, that it seems almost presumption for me to say a single word, but, reverting as I do to the memory of our beloved Dr. Armitage and Louis Braille, I find it impossible to remain silent when our cousins the Americans, with their usual fervour, are seeking to destroy their life-work, which has been such a "boon" to the blind. It is, therefore, with the greatest of pleasure that I add my voice to the already numerous body of supporters of our "Braille" system as it now stands. To be candid, I must admit that when I read Mr. Holmes's article it certainly seemed a passable idea, for he made his case out very strongly, but does it look the same now that we have Mr. Ford's letter (backed up by his own personal experiments) in

which all its defects have been brought to the surface? Why, no, Mr. Holmes's position is absolutely untenable, as J. A. F. said he could make it. I sincerely agree with Mr. Ford that the "American" system would be a retrograde, rather than a progressive, step, besides if we "scrap" our present Braille, what do our American friends offer us in exchange for our system of embossed music, which, to my way of thinking, is quite adequate? Mr. Ford's selection of examples of their newly-suggested single-letter contractions is rather a blow for the selectors, who (judging by his quotations) seem to have done their level best to choose the least, rather than the *most* suggestive letter, viz., "J" for "has." Their substitutions, too (as quoted by Mr. Ford), are simply ridiculous, for, instead of gaining space (as they claim to do), if anything, they lose a little. Your space is far too precious for me to go into a lot of details, but let it suffice to say that I feel compelled to heartily endorse the views of H. C. Warrilow, W. H. Dixon, P. Gilbert, and W. I. Kelly. I should also like to say, that, after careful perusal of the "lansing" key, I am convinced that the "Standard Dot System" would be harder to read (to say nothing of writing), and would necessitate a great deal slower reading, with a lot of needless brain-work. In conclusion, let us stick to the bridge that has carried us so far, and say "nothing doing" to the Americans, until they can produce something far far superior to the "Standard Dot."—Yours very sincerely, G. A. CUSTANCE, 612, Holloway Road, Upper Holloway, N.



College of Teachers of the Blind.

THE Annual Public Meeting of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, on Saturday, March the 4th, 1916, at 3.30 p.m. The Rev. Canon Wesley-Dennis, M.A., will preside, and we shall feel grateful if all interested in the education of the blind will make a note of the date.

A partially blind N.C.O. (Duke of Wellington's Regiment) and his wife seek Post as **Caretakers**; both capable energetic, willing, good references; employment essential; son on active service. Apply The National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8, Great Portland Street, London, W.

Mrs. LOTHIAN, 27, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W. (sister and successor to Miss Blott), offers a **Superior Home** to blind ladies or gentlemen, or invalids (adult or children). Every home comfort and consideration. Resident nurse for those requiring such attention. Good home and garden with pleasant outlook on Barnes Green and Common. Terms moderate.

A Comfortable Home with modern conveniences, tuition in Braille and other subjects, also languages, offered on reasonable terms to blind pupils. Invalids not objected to. House nicely situated near church, station and park. Apply to the Rev. C. GUYOR, Evesham.

CONTENTS OF THE DECEMBER NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—A Charles Dickens Find, from *The Daily Chronicle*—Reapers of the Death-Machines, by Walter Wood, from *The Royal Magazine*—True Stories of the Great War, from *The London Magazine*—Straw-Plaiting—Will the War Impoverish Us? by Sir Leo. Chiozza Money, M.P., from *Everyman*—The Londoners, by Twells Brev, from *The Daily Mail*—Beasts and Men, from *My Magazine*.

Progress.—A Friend of the Negro, by Sir Harry Johnston—Chapters from Dickens—Biographies of the Blind: Dr. A. W. G. Ranger—Our French Page—Friends in Council: Braille English Dictionary; *Re* Almanack for 1916; *Re* Article on Submarines; Blind Social Aid Society; Ladies' Magazines; After-Care Broadsheets and a Lecture; *Re* French Braille; Wireless Telegraphy for the Blind—Proud Child of Mother England, from *The Little Paper*—Items of Interest: Important Notice to our Readers; Wool for the Soldiers and Sailors; Two Patriotic Poems; Two Distinguished Soldiers; A Schoolgirl's View of Zeppelins; Message from Mr. C. Arthur Pearson; Dogs of War—Chess, by F. H. Merrick—How to take Care of the Sick at Home—Our Home Page, from *The Smallholder*—Advertisements.

Braille Musical Supplement.—The Waits, by F. A. Hadland, from *Musical News*—A Macdowell Chronology, from *The Music Student*—Macdowell's Piano Works, by Percy A. Scholes, from *The Music Student*.

Comrades.—Timothy's Shoes, Part III., The Shoes at School, by J. H. Ewing—A Carol, by G. F. Bradby—Christmas with the Goblins, from the Swedish of Z. Topelius—Godfrey Gordon Gustavus Gore, by William Brighty Rands, in Grade I.

School Magazine.—The Gorgon's Head, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*to be continued*)—Monthly Almanack—The Blind Pilot's Return, from *Little Folks*—The Bended Bow (Poem), by Felicia Hemans—Christmas in the Navy, from *The Captain*—The Citizen, by Oscar Browning, M.A. *continued.*

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture by Dr. Ash—The Guiding and Self-Guidance of the Newly-Blinded, by C. Arthur Pearson, Esq.—Conference at Manchester—Review of Exercise in Education and Medicine—Official Notices.

The National Institute for the Blind have For Sale a number of **Goat Skin Rugs** made by a blind man. They are beautifully made and are in a variety of patterns, each measuring 69 in. by 36 in., the price being 10s. 6d. apiece.

Comfortable Home for the blind or sighted, holiday or permanency. Braille taught, references exchanged. Seven minutes from the sea. Apply Mrs. FLITTON, 93, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

Important to Superintendents, etc. of Institutions for the Blind. **PUPILS' PROGRESS BOOKS** for use in Schools for the Blind can now be obtained from The National Institute for the Blind. Sample submitted on application.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

FEBRUARY, 1916.

No. 2.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE BLIND.—No. VIII.

Henry Martyn Taylor.

HENRY MARTYN TAYLOR, J.P., M.A., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.C.T.B., was born at Bristol on June 6th, 1842. In 1847, at the age of five, he entered the Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth at Wakefield in Yorkshire, of which school his father, the Rev. James Taylor, M.A. (afterwards D.D.), had just been appointed headmaster. He remained as a pupil there until 1861, when he commenced residence at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was elected a Foundation Scholar at Easter, 1863. In January, 1865, he graduated as third Wrangler, and shortly afterwards obtained the second Smith's Prize. In this year the present Lord Rayleigh was Senior Wrangler and obtained the first Smith's Prize, while the names of Mr. Justice Bray and the late Lord Alverstone appeared in the list of Wranglers.

During the next four years Mr. Taylor was Vice-Principal of the Royal School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at South Kensington. With a view to promoting the health of the students Mr. Taylor induced them to form a football club, and he often joined them on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons in a friendly game in Battersea Park. Among the pupils of the school at the time were Sir Philip Watts, K.C.B., F.R.S., and the late Sir W. H. White, K.C.B., F.R.S. Mr. Taylor's work in teaching Mathematics to the students was limited to the winter session of the school; and in the summer months when the students were dispersed to the various dockyards he devoted himself to the study of law. He was called to the Bar by the Society of Lincoln's Inn in the autumn of 1869, but has never practised. Recalled to his college in 1869, of which he had been elected a Fellow in October, 1866, and of which he still is a Fellow, he was placed on the teaching staff as Lecturer in Mathematics, in which capacity he remained for twenty-five years. From 1874-1884 he was one of the tutors of the College. He on many occasions examined in the annual examinations of his college, as well as in the examinations for Scholarships and Fellowships.

In the University Mr. Taylor has served on many "Syndicates," has held the offices of pro-proctor and proctor, and has examined five times in the Mathematical Tripos Examination.

Mr. Taylor's sight—although he had always been short-sighted, and also markedly colour-blind to green and red—was clear and keen until May, 1894.

During the time that Lord Rayleigh held the professorship of Experimental Philosophy at Cambridge he induced Mr. Taylor to make a series of experiments with the Colour-Top. In these experiments the colour-top was used to obtain a match between two colours, each of which was formed by the blending of two or more different colours. The results of these experiments were published by Lord Rayleigh in a paper which he read at a meeting of the British Association at York. Some of the matches made by Mr. Taylor were accepted as fairly good matches by normal-sighted people; but others were so startling to the normal eye that occasionally Mr. Taylor's friends had doubts as to his honesty or even his sanity when he assured them that the matches were as good as he could make them. It was a great comfort to Mr. Taylor that Lord Rayleigh was able to assure the British Association that Mr. Taylor's matches were quite as consistent as those made by the average normal-sighted person.

In May 1894 Mr. Taylor's sight began to fail rapidly, and since the summer of that year he has been quite unable to see to read or write. Now he is totally blind.

Mr. Taylor followed the advice he then received, not to give up any of his occupations unless compelled to do so. When his eyesight began to fail Mr. Taylor was engaged in reading the proof-sheets of the second edition of books written by two of his friends, as well as in the completion of an edition of Euclid, which he had been induced a few years before to undertake for the Cambridge University Press Syndicate. The work of reading the proof-sheets he was naturally compelled to relinquish; but with the help of friends he completed his edition of Euclid. The fact that the last part of Euclid deals with the Geometry of Space increased the difficulties that Mr. Taylor had in the completion of his edition. The fact that he had to deal with this subject after he had lost his sight was in all probability the cause of his considering at a later period the feasibility of teaching the blind the principles of Geometrical Perspective.

Since his blindness he has continued from time to time to write Mathematics Papers, one of which, "On a Method of Plotting out on a Chart the Great Circle Route between any two Points," attracted some attention at the Liverpool meeting of the British Association in 1896. A question as to the use that might be made of Mr. Taylor's method was put in the House of Commons by Mr. T. G. Bowles to the then First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. (afterwards Viscount) Goschen.

In 1898 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Since 1891 Mr. Taylor has been one of the University Representatives on the Cambridge Town Council, and in 1898 he was elected an Alderman, a position he still holds. In the year 1900-1901 he served the office of Mayor of Cambridge. In 1903 his name was placed permanently on the Commission of Peace of the Borough.

From 1902 to 1905 he was an active member of The British Braille Committee, and thereby helped in the revision of British Braille

and in the adoption of Grades I. and II. by the English-speaking blind of the Empire. In 1903 he joined the Executive Council of The National Institute for the Blind (then the British and Foreign Blind Association), of which he is still a member. Since 1910 he has acted as Chairman of the Book Committee of the Institute. Through his influence Charles Smith's *Elementary Algebra* was published by that body in Braille in 1907.

In consequence of the dearth of embossed books of a scientific character, Mr. Taylor, in the autumn of 1907, started a fund called "The Embossed Scientific Book Fund," with a view to the publication in Braille of books of a scientific character at prices within the range of the blind. He has already written out the first Braille copy of more than 50 volumes of such works, to be put into the hands of the stereotyper. Besides the *Algebra*, already mentioned the works include the following subjects:—Sound and Music, Astronomy, Geology, Trigonometry, Chemistry, Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism, Physiology, Psychology, Introduction to Mathematics, Botany, Hydrostatics, Elementary Geometry, Conic Sections, Solid Geometry, Soap Bubbles, and Differential and Integral Calculus.

Upwards of 1,200 volumes of the books published under the auspices of this fund have already been sold. The fund is now established on a permanent basis, and the Royal Society have consented to be the Trustees of the Fund and the capital is now invested in their name.

In 1908 Mr. Taylor acted as an Examiner at the first Examination held by the College of Teachers of the Blind, and in 1911 he was elected a Fellow of that College.

Mr. Taylor has been an occasional contributor to *Progress*, in the pages of which magazine he has endeavoured to teach the blind the principles of Perspective Drawing, and methods of making simple models of geometrical figures in paper, and he is at present endeavouring to discover the best and cheapest method of embossing maps for the use of the blind.

Quite recently Mr. Taylor has been appointed one of a body of five to serve as the "Local Tribunal" with reference to enlistment under the Earl of Derby's scheme.



Sale of Work.

MISS E. SMITH, of "Holmwood," Weston-super-Mare, writes to inform us that she is hoping to have a sale of Blind Work next Autumn. Any blind or partially blind reader who wishes to earn a little money for himself is welcome to forward his or her work. On receipt of an addressed halfpenny envelope (not a postcard) Miss Smith will send all particulars.

It is interesting to know that the last sale in October, 1915, realised a little over £60.

War Miracles.

IN almost every great war we hear stories of wonderful visions that have inspired and led fighting men on to victory.

Now that we hear so much about Constantinople and the great efforts made by the Allies to gain possession of that wonderful city, it is interesting to remember that it was called after that great Roman Emperor Constantine, who led his troops to victory after having seen a vision of a fiery cross in the sky. This vision converted Constantine to Christianity, and it was some years later that he conquered the East, founding Constantinople (which means Constantine's city) as his capital, and that is how the Turkish capital comes to bear the name of one of the most famous generals and emperors of early times, for Constantine the Great was not only Emperor of the West, but he conquered and became Emperor of the East as well.

Perhaps one of the most wonderful instances of the supernatural in war has been given to us in the case of Joan of Arc, a simple peasant girl, who, as she believed, heard the voices of saints and angels which told her she was to free France. Clad in shining armour, and at the head of the French troops, she won several battles, until at last she fell into the hands of her foes, who thought that witchcraft had been at work, because they could not understand how their armies had been defeated by a mere girl, for people were foolish enough to believe in witches in those days, and so it was that one of the bravest women in history died a martyr to this belief.

In this war there have been several stories of phantom armies of soldiers appearing to help and encourage our men in the thick of battle. Several officers and men are convinced that they saw these horsemen, that they were not only the effect of a freak of imagination. The story of the angels who appeared to the British soldiers at Mons will be read by British children in their history books many, many years hence.

The Russians relate many stories of war visions, too, and so, for the matter of that, do the Germans and the Australians, and all believe in the reality of the visions they saw.

MARVELLOUS CURES.—But perhaps the most wonderful war miracles are to be found in the marvellous cures that have been effected since the war.

Take the case of Private Chambers, of the Canadians, for instance. He was badly wounded in one of the great battles, and the doctors said that he had altogether lost his sight. So, having resigned himself to being blind for life, he was going back to Canada as a man hopelessly disabled through the war.

And it was then that the wonderful thing happened. The liner "Hesperian," on which he was travelling, was torpedoed by the Germans.

As the result of the shock Private Chambers recovered his sight, and you may be sure that he blesses the day on which he set sail on the ill-fated steamer, in spite of the dangers he went through.

In the papers recently was an account of another case almost as wonderful. An Italian officer, Francesco Ummarino, was admitted to hospital stricken quite dumb by the violent explosion at his feet of an Austrian grenade.

For weeks he was speechless, and could only express himself by manual signs, until one day the King of Italy came to visit the wounded patients in the ward. The young officer was so pleased and excited at the visit that he started suddenly to his feet, exclaiming, "His Majesty the King!" and burst into tears. The emotional shock had restored the paralyzed function of the tongue, and now he speaks as plainly and fluently as ever.

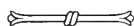
WONDERFUL SURGERY.—It is in the realms of surgery, perhaps, more than in any other, that what may really be called "miracles" have been achieved, and there is no doubt that surgical science has made great progress in the course of this war.

Take the case of Private L. Tattersall, 4th Seaforth Highlanders, for instance, who was taken to a military hospital with severe shrapnel wounds in the head. He was paralyzed in his limbs and on one side, and his total incurability and probable speedy death was deemed to be a foregone conclusion by those who had experience in cases of the kind.

It is to the skill of a well-known Manchester doctor that he owes his life, for the doctor conducted a marvellous operation, in which a piece of Tattersall's skull, an inch square, and a portion of his brain were first removed; then a number of splinters of bone driven into the brain by the shrapnel were taken away.

The operation was so successful that the tissues of the brain are healing and Tattersall has recovered the use of his limbs. At the time of writing he can speak and write, and is making progress towards good health.

And there are many more stories told of marvellous recoveries amongst those for whom all hope had been given up, of miraculous escapes from death, and of wonderful and mysterious apparitions which have served to cheer our men to victory. There are numbers of eye-witnesses, too, who will vouch for their truth.—From *Woman's Life*.



Work for the Blind.

TEACHING USEFUL TRADES.

SOME interesting details of the work which is carried on at St. Dunstan's College in the training of blind soldiers and sailors for profitable occupations were given recently by Mr. C. Arthur Pearson at the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, at Upper Norwood. The occasion was the annual winter festival of this beneficent institution, the programme at which included a concert of music admirably rendered by students, and a clever performance by young men and boys at the college of "Vice Versa," a little dramatic sketch founded upon Mr. F. Anstey's ever-popular story.

The Hollins gold chain and medal, which is presented annually to the girl student who is chosen, on the votes of her comrades, as being most commendable for "kind, genial, and obliging manners," was received by Miss Hilda Leverett from the hands of Mrs. Pearson.

Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, who presided, said they all regarded with the utmost pleasure the fact that the great work which Sir Francis

Campbell had established at the college was now being carried on with single-hearted devotion by his son, Mr. Guy Campbell, who, like his father, obtained invaluable aid from his wife. It was a work to which the much-abused word "unique" might be properly applied, for it was the one and only establishment of its kind. One of the tragedies of blindness was that the higher the intellectual capacity of the individual the more difficult it was for him to find congenial and profitable employment, and this was what the Royal Normal College had been and was doing.

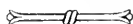
BLIND COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

He ventured, however, to suggest to Mr. Campbell and his committee a fresh avenue of employment for their students—commercial travelling. There were, of course, many trades for which a blind traveller would not be suitable; but there were others in which, he believed, the blind would have certain advantages.

One branch of the college work which particularly interested him was the training of blind teachers for the blind. He had at the present moment the largest number of blind teachers that had ever been brought together in one place. He referred to those who, at St. Dunstan's College, Regent's Park, were helping to educate soldiers and sailors who had lost their sight in the war. There were over a score of these blind teachers, who were instructing the newly-afflicted in shorthand and typewriting, boot-repairing, mat-making, basket-making, joinery work, poultry-farming, and other trades. Then there were eighteen soldiers who were learning massage; but for this work it was necessary to have instructors who could see.

One great advantage they had had at St. Dunstan's was that they had been able to carry on the work without any great anxiety as to ways and means. This was most necessary if the work was to be done efficiently; and he appealed earnestly for further financial support for the Royal Normal College, upon the subscription list of which the war was having a disastrous effect.

In an appeal issued by Lord Burnham, the hon. treasurer, it is stated that during the forty-two years of its existence the Royal Normal College has enabled nearly 600 graduates to go out into the world, not as helpless dependents, but as members of the community who have learnt to become wage-earners, as pianoforte-tuners, organists, teachers of music, school teachers, or shorthand typists. A sum of about £2,000 is still needed to pay for the erection and equipment of the new pianoforte-tuning building which was opened by Queen Alexandra last June.



An Evangelistic Hymn Book has just been issued in Braille by The National Institute for the Blind. All the money has been provided, and 150 copies are available for free distribution. Its publication is largely due to Rev. H. J. R. Marston, M.A., the chaplain of the Institute, who desires to thank the many donors who have responded to his appeals.

Examinations in Braille Writing; Some Hints to Candidates.

By W. PERCY MERRICK.

THE perusal during the past year of some scores of test papers in Grades I. and II. has suggested to us that a few hints on writing Braille may be useful to future candidates.

The object of these examinations is not, as some seem to imagine, to catch the unwary tripping into fancifully pedantic traps, but simply to see if the candidate can be trusted to make a faithful copy of a book in legible and correct Braille. Those who leave out a comma at the end of a line just because they have neglected to see that there would be room for it before beginning the last syllable, and those who fail to recopy a sheet in which they know there is an uncorrectable error stand condemned by their own lack of fidelity, but many of the errors into which beginners are apt to fall are less obvious. One candidate placed his name at the head of his paper in such a way that I actually believed it was a chapter from his biography until the printed copy was read to me; another destroyed what might have been a good transcript by folding it so that the crease obliterated a whole line; some writers fill in omissions by extending the lines towards the binding margin so that the letters would be hidden in the binding if the book were bound, while others leave two or three spaces after every full-stop, and thus make it impossible for the blind reader to tell whether a paragraph is intended or not. Many obscure their work with imperfect erasures. Indeed, erasing is never satisfactory when more than an occasional unimportant dot has to be taken out. It is far better to recopy the sheet—correctly. Much labour would be spared if all writers would read carefully every page before going on to the next.

I hope the following notes may help to dispel uncertainty as to the use of some signs and the intention of some of the rules.

The italic sign should in general be kept strictly for words in the slanting italic letters. It should never be made to do duty as a capital sign, which can always be used before words beginning with a capital whenever the sense renders such indication necessary. The italic sign, however, is useful for showing words in text-books printed in heavy type for some special purpose.

The letter sign (dots 4-6) simply reduces all the signs of the group that follows it to their simplest meaning, whether this be as in Grades I and II, that of a letter instead of a numeral, or as in Grade II, that of a stop or letter instead of a Braille contraction, or where the signs of the Appendix are used, that of an accented letter or diphthong. It is for the reader's convenience, and there is no point in putting it before such abbreviations as "e.g." where the abbreviation points show at once what is meant.

The method of paragraphing by leaving only three clear cells is of use only where the paragraphs are short, as in rapid conversation, etc. When the paragraphs are long the space saved by this device is inconsiderable, and it is a great convenience to many readers to have the

paragraphs begun in the third cell of a new line so that their commencement may be easily found by running the finger down the edge of the writing.

The rule which says that quotations indicated by a change of type are to be placed within inverted commas is not meant to apply to single words, but to passages taken from another work, as when a reviewer cites passages from the book under review in type two sizes smaller than that of the main article but without using quotation marks. It is undesirable to repeat quotation marks before every line of a citation as is done in some books and newspapers, but the opening inverted commas should be repeated before a new paragraph commencing in the course of such quotation.

When poetry is not written line for line, the poetry sign, although "it must not be used singly at the end of a stanza or verse," "must be placed after the last word of each line of poetry" throughout all poems and plays not actually divided into stanzas, otherwise the metres may be hopelessly obscured.

For dividing words at the end of a line, perhaps the simplest rule is to follow their pronunciation. This will at least help those who read aloud, and will obviate such a mystifying distribution of letters as "fore-ign" which recently confronted me in a paper sent to The National Institute for the Blind.

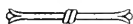


Exploiting Kindliness.

It is very deplorable that the sufferings and needs of our brave soldiers should be exploited by unprincipled rascals for their own advantage. But those who trade on the kind-heartedness and generosity of the public, and especially of poor people, regard the present time as affording them a golden harvest. We have already warned our readers against such impostors, but we gladly respond to the request of the chairman of the Grantham Bench by calling attention to a case heard recently by the magistrates of that town. The prisoner, a man of 38, and proved to be a deserter from two regiments, with a very bad record, was caught by the police collecting subscriptions for what he called "Colonel Jerome's Fund for Blinded Soldiers." Such an appeal would go direct to the heart of every Englishman and woman, and the evidence showed that the people on whom prisoner called willingly gave to the best of their ability. Needless to say, there is no such fund in existence, and if there were it is extremely unlikely that private soldiers would be employed collecting for it. There are countless excellent schemes for providing comforts and help for our soldiers and sailors, of which the newspapers give full particulars, so that no one who wishes to contribute need be delayed by lack of opportunity. But, unless they wish to be victimised, the charitable should require full proof of the *bona fides* of any collector, and in cases of suspicion the police should be consulted. In the present case the fraudulent friend of blinded soldiers will have three months (with hard labour) to contemplate the enormity and meanness of his offence.—From *The Nottingham Guardian*.

Earl Kitchener's Visit to Blinded Soldiers.

EARL KITCHENER, accompanied by Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh, visited the blinded soldiers at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, recently. His lordship made a thorough inspection of the house, workshops, and classrooms, and displayed great interest in the remarkable facility with which the blinded men are learning to read and typewrite and to take up some useful occupation. The men were greatly gratified at the sympathetic interest shown in them by their chief. He had a little talk with almost every one of them, and was specially interested when he found men who had belonged to his own regiment—the Royal Engineers—and others who had served with him in the Soudan and South African campaigns. Lord Kitchener dictated some sentences to a blind shorthand writer, who, to his amazement, took down his words by the Braille system as rapidly as a sighted shorthand writer could. He conversed with the officers whom he met, showing a keen interest in the progress they were making under the altered conditions of their lives. "It is wonderful," said Lord Kitchener to Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, "to find men who have suffered so terrible a calamity as loss of sight bright, cheery, and contented, and learning a variety of trades and occupations in so thorough and complete a manner."—*The Daily Telegraph*.



Concert at Kingsway Hall.

OF all the lots that can befall a healthy man surely that of total blindness is one of the hardest to bear, and it is a lot, unfortunately, that has overtaken many during the present war. Of the splendid work that Mr. C. Arthur Pearson is doing on their behalf much has already been written, and to raise more money for his admirable fund a very pleasant concert was arranged by the Independent Music Club at the Kingsway Hall on Tuesday afternoon, January 18th, under the auspices of The National Institute for the Blind. It had always been anticipated that the hall would be too large for any audience that the concert might normally be expected to attract, so a large contingent of wounded soldiers had been invited, who obviously enjoyed themselves immensely. One of the most interesting features of the programme was the appearance of Sir Owen Seaman, who recited a number of the fine poems that the war has inspired him to write with, it need hardly be said, immense success, for his delivery is as good as his verse. Very appropriate, though possibly a little serious for the audience, was an excerpt from Mrs. Margaret Meredith's "Sursum Corda," in which the solos were well sung by Miss Rosa Rubery and Miss Muriel Michell, who were supported by a good double quartet of voices and four able instrumentalists. Furthermore, there were songs from Mrs. Edith Lawson, Mr. John Collett, and Master Eric Brooks, concertina and banjo songs from Miss Christine Hawkes and Miss Dorrie Courtney, and dances from Miss Joan Lawson.—From *The Daily Telegraph*.

Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility for the views of his correspondents.]

THE STANDARD DOT SYSTEM.

SIR,—In the article entitled “Friends in Council,” published in the October number of *Progress*, Mr. Ford says, “Our American friends claim that, with the comparatively few contractions they have chosen, they can save several per cent. more space than we can with all our contractions and abbreviations.” Again, he says, “Out of our long list of abbreviated words they have only provided for three.” In the second of these statements Mr. Ford is correct in the spirit, but incorrect in the letter, for we have provided for about seven of the “long list of abbreviated words” instead of only three. The question of abbreviated words was not taken up by our Committee for purposes of tabulation, because we felt that the abbreviated words, given in Grade II. British Braille, were as applicable to Standard Dot as they are to British Braille. In the first statement above quoted Mr. Ford is unwittingly unjust to our claims; for what we really claim is, that, with but two-thirds the number of characters used in Grade II. of British Braille (not including the “long list of abbreviated words,” which are equally applicable to both systems) we can save some five per cent. upon the space required by British Braille. It will thus appear that, if Mr. Ford had either used the “abbreviated words” in the Standard Dot transcriptions as well as in those of British Braille; or, if he had omitted these “abbreviated words” from the British Braille transcriptions as he did from those of Standard Dot, his results would, beyond all doubt, have corroborated those obtained by the Uniform Type Committee. If, then, Mr. Ford will re-transcribe his selections under conditions equally fair to both contracted systems, he will find that we have taken a “practical” as well as a “scientific” basis for our calculation. Taking Mr. Ford’s own results, is it not remarkable that with but sixty-seven characters—letters and contractions—Standard Dot can come so close to British Braille with its one hundred and three characters—letters and contractions—plus seventy-three abbreviated words? Mr. Ford makes much of the opinion of the individual blind working under him. He says: “I have taken the opinion of my work-people, and they say, one and all, that they prefer our compound signs.” Of course they do: the readers of New York Point and American Braille each prefers his own type, and probably always will. In this connection I beg to point out that the conclusions of the Uniform Type Committee, as embodied in Standard Dot, are not the opinions of its individual members as based upon their personal preferences, but the inevitable conclusions arising from the data collected from its thousands of experiments made upon hundreds of readers in each of the three existing systems.

In reply to Mr. Warrilow’s somewhat sarcastic humour, I submit that when Mr. Ford has made his experiments over again on the basis equally fair to both systems, and has handed the results up to him, our

friend from Oxford will find himself compelled to admit, that, though in his opinion the newspaper matter selected as the basis of the Uniform Type Committee's count is inadequate for the purpose, it has proven itself extremely practical, and perhaps the "ghost of a smile" which he fails to see upon our countenances, may then appear upon his face in the form of a ghastly grin. In reply to Mr. Dixon's very interesting query, "What was the factor in European Braille which made it more legible than the existing American systems?" it gives me pleasure to say, that, while the European alphabet presents the greatest variety of opportunity for confusions between or among letters, these conditions are not as strongly emphasised as they are in the other systems; for example, it does not offer as many opportunities for confusions among open, slanting characters as does American Braille; nor does it offer such confusions as arise because of difference of level, as presented by American Braille "A" and "E"; nor does it offer opportunity for confusion between second and third-base characters, which is the chief source of error in New York Point. Were it not that the first two of these sources of error are so largely embodied in the British Braille system of contractions, especially among compound characters, the system would doubtless be pre-eminently superior to the other two from the standpoint of accuracy as well as from that of speed, which are the two component elements of legibility. In eliminating the open, slanting characters used in British Braille for "st" and "ch," in ruling out lower-level contractions, and in substituting third-base characters for compound characters, the Standard Dot has reduced the opportunity for confusions between and among characters to a minimum.

I am very much pleased with what Mr. Gilbert of Amiens has to say on the question, and hope he will equip himself with a Standard Dot writing tablet, which will serve to clear up some of his difficulties relative to writing Standard Dot.

I also note with interest Mr. Kelly's suggestion relative to the possibility of our taking over British Braille as a whole, and appointing an International Committee on contractions.

In conclusion, I beg to say as Executive Secretary of the Commission on Uniform Type, that the Standard Dot System is on trial in America as well as in Great Britain, and that while it has been adopted by the American Association of Workers for the Blind, and so brought officially before the public, the system has not yet been adopted by the American Association of Instructors of the Blind, which is the real authoritative body of this country. We are in search of as perfect a type as possible, which on the whole shall be acceptable to the English-speaking world, a uniform type, and we shall not rest until we have found it, and have secured its adoption under reasonably auspicious conditions.—Yours, etc., H. R. LATIMER, Executive Secretary.

SIR,—It is extremely gratifying to find so many of your readers coming forward to support me in my claims for British Braille; more especially so because all but one are personally unknown to me. This

strongly emphasises the fact that I do not stand alone in my prejudice for a system with which I have been familiar in its various forms for the past forty years.

Mr. Latimer asks me to re-transcribe Standard Dot into Braille without using abbreviated words. I have re-transcribed twenty lines and got them into nineteen, thus showing that instead of losing five per cent. we gain it. I feel quite confident that in whatever way we compare Standard Dot with British Braille we are bound to come out on top.

There are two remarkable statements in Mr. Latimer's letter to which I should like to call your attention. I will begin with the last first. At the close of his letter he tells us that The American Association of Instructors of the Blind, who are the real authorities, have not yet accepted the Standard Dot system. This might be taken to imply that, after all, Standard Dot is not very likely to have a long existence.

The other statement is this: He says that while British Braille offers a greater opportunity for confusion between and among letters than the other systems, these conditions are less emphasised than in either New York Point or American Braille. On top of this, the Uniform Type Committee have already acknowledged that, for all practical purposes, they could not find a better alphabet than that of British Braille. Mr. Latimer also says, that if these opportunities for confusion were removed, Braille would be pre-eminently superior to either of the other systems.

Grade II. Braille has now entered on its ninth year, and, generally speaking, has become very popular; but from various letters in *Progress* it would seem that it is open to improvements, and this would form a very good topic for discussion through the pages of *Progress*. The Uniform Type Committee have sought to improve Braille by eliminating such signs as "ch," "sh," and "st," and ruling out all lower signs of contraction. I am quite convinced that "ch," "sh," and "st," are most useful characters in their way, but I think their use should be modified. Thus, it would perhaps be better to go back to the rule that "ch" should not be used before "a" and "st" after "a"; for these characters have always been a bone of contention with beginners. With regard to "sh" I think it would be a good thing to forbid its use at the beginning of a word when followed by "a," "e," or "i."

With regard to lower signs, I see no possible objection to them; and if they can be freely used in French, German, Greek, Latin, and all Eastern languages, surely they ought to be easily understood in English.

Another step taken by the Uniform Type Committee is to substitute a third-base character for our compound signs. This is the worst innovation of all, since it involves the introduction of a continuous-dot frame, which would be a great hindrance to Braille writing. Here, again, I would suggest a modified use of these characters. For instance, I would debar their use where they overlap syllables; thus, *partial*, not *par*tial; *partake*, not *par*take; *honest*, not *hon*est; *heresy*, not *her*esy; *Spartan*, not *Spar*tan; *smother*, not *smo*ther; *Colonel*, not *Colo*nel; *pioneer*, not *pion*eer; etc.

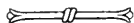
If changes like these were made there would be no need to scrap a single book; for while it would make new books more easy and pleasant to read, it would not render the older books unreadable.

If these slight improvements were made, I believe we could arrive at a system which could be made universal, even including the Americans, if they would only embrace it. From this time I shall cease to discuss Standard Dot, for I feel quite sure that it will never be adopted generally in this country, and it will be quite foreign to all other countries.—Yours, etc., JOHN A. FORD, 58, Ridley Avenue, West Ealing, W.

* * * *

SIR,—I notice that in your November issue of *The Braille Review* you publish an article on the Standard Dot system, taken from *The Matilda Ziegler Magazine*, in which reference is made to the circulation of embossed books by the New York City Library. The figures given are correct, except in regard to the New York point. Its circulation was 9,100, instead of 9,400. There is, however, an error in the analysis of these figures.

Much of the European Braille circulation is due to the popularity of the magazines in that type, which are not entered as "accessions," and are therefore not included in the 992 volumes in European Braille owned by the library. While this fact makes incorrect the figures given in the article to show the number of times each book is read, it does not in the least alter the fact that European Braille is second in popularity of the types circulated by this library. The magazines are of considerable size, printed on both sides of the page, and contain more reading matter than many of the smaller books. All libraries, so far as I know, count magazines in their circulation. We try to be both accurate and conservative in our use of statistics, and we regret that the data should have been presented in just this form. We feel that it is not a specially important matter, but one that we wish you to understand.—Very truly yours, LUCILLE A. GOLDTHWAITE, Librarian for the Blind, New York.



Barley and Blindness.

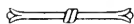
[To the Editor of *Country Life*.]

SIR,—An enquiry in "Notes in Queries" concerning the alleged danger of blindness from the consumption of a certain species of barley (the subject of a recent letter of mine in *Country Life*) has brought me interesting replies.

An esteemed French correspondent writes: "Dans le texte auquel fait allusion l'auteur, il s'agit sans doute des troubles de la vue provoqués par l'ergotisme. Le seigle, qui en est la cause ordinaire, est inconnu, je pense, en Palestine, mais l'orge et les autres céréales le transmettent également. Cette explication est confirmée par l'indication complémentaire du texte hébraïque, celle de troubles dans la circulation du sang, car le premier effet de l'ergotisme est d'agir sur la tunique musculaire des artères. Les prescriptions des rabbins auraient ainsi garanti leur peuple

de l'une des maladies diététiques les plus redoutables du Moyen-Age, de celle qui, sous le nom de 'feu Saint Antoine,' a ravagé la Chrétienté à cette époque, autant et plus que la lèpre elle-même. Peut-on ajouter aussi que ce mal mystérieux s'expliquait alors, comme les autres épidémies, par l'empoisonnement des sources et des fontaines et que les Juifs, généralement indemnes grâce à l'hygiène particulière que leur conseillaient leurs traditions et que leur permettait leur richesse, étaient tout désignés pour être considérés comme les auteurs probables du méfait, et traités comme tels."

Another correspondent says: "There was a somewhat similar belief among the Romans. Pliny tells us (*Nat. Hist.* XVIII., 7 (14) 74) that at one time barley had been used for making bread, but was rejected as being unsuitable. In his days it was chiefly used for feeding horses. The Romans, it would seem, believed that barley actually degenerated into darnel and wild oats (see Conington's note on Virgil, *Eclogue V.* 37), and darnel was supposed to affect the eyesight. A character in Plautus' 'Miles Gloriosus,' to show his disbelief in the evidence of his fellow-slave's eyes, remarks, sarcastically, 'I am surprised to find that you live on darnel when wheat is so cheap' (l. 321). Ovid, 'Fasti I., 691,' speaks of darnel that injures the eyes (*loliis oculos vitiantibus*). Conington in his note (see above) refers to 'the pernicious properties of darnel, which affects the head when ground into flour,' but it does not appear whether this is based on any modern experience."—
J. LANDFEAR LUCAS.



Items.

Service at Holy Trinity, Marylebone.

THE second annual service of the members of the staff of The National Institute for the Blind was held on the Festival of the Epiphany, in Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone, by the kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. Ernest Sharpe. There was a large congregation; including almost the whole staff of the Institute, besides the Chairman and other members of the Council, and many friends. The Chaplain, the Rev. Herbert Marston, conducted the service from the pulpit. The Lesson was read by the Secretary-General, Mr. Stainsby. The music was rendered by Mr. Percy Way, F.R.C.O., a blind organist of great distinction. The hymns selected were "Brightest and best of the Sons of the Morning" and "Thou Whose Almighty Word," both beautifully and pathetically appropriate to the day and to the special affinities of the service. They were sung with delightful fervour and effect.



WE have just received a copy of the St. Dunstan's Hymn-book, a volume of selected hymns, containing the words of the hymns in Braille as well as in letter press. The book is very nicely got up and is an exceptionally handy size. It is published by The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W. Price 2s. 6d.

Torquay's Home for Blinded Warriors.

The following has appeared in the provincial press:—

"Sir,—I shall be grateful if you will allow me to state in your columns some changes that have taken place in the Torquay Annexe to St. Dunstan's.

"We now have a trained nurse as matron; Mr. Pearson, of St. Dunstan's, finds that the best help we can give him is to accept convalescent blinded men in need of a few weeks' rest and change of air, accompanied by massage or other skilled treatment. It is satisfactory to note that, so far, each man has returned to St. Dunstan's much the better for his stay at Fairfield. Being unable to fill the twelve beds with blinded men Mr. Pearson has suggested that we should receive unblinded convalescents discharged by the War Office to fill the vacant beds, with the understanding that we always retain a certain number of beds for blinded men from St. Dunstan's. The majority of our subscribers and donors having no objection to this scheme we are going forward with it; and much hope that the public will continue to support the Home in the same generous way it has always done. Without doubt the companionship of the unblinded men will add much to the happiness of those who have to face the world so handicapped by having become sightless. The hon. Secretary, Miss Skirrow, of Sunshine, Preston, Paignton—to whom subscriptions and donations may be sent—will gladly reply to any questions, or give further information if required. It may be well also to add that gifts of game, fish, fruit, and vegetables will gratefully be received by the matron of Fairfield.

"M. C. TREMAYNE, President.

"FLORENCE SKIRROW, Hon. Secretary."

* * * *

Blind Mail-Bag Maker.

Twenty-six years ago a blind woman asked the United States Postmaster-General, Mr. John Wanamaker, at Washington, to give her a job sewing mail-bags.

"Mr. Wanamaker," she said, "you give seeing people a two months' trial, will you give me that much time to prove I can do it?" He consented to give her a trial.

To-day you will find a Miss Hattie Maddox in the mail-box repair shop of the post office department busy with a pile of sacks reaching nearly to her shoulder. She is one of Uncle Sam's best workers on mail-bags.

* * * *

DISABLED and especially blind soldiers are being settled on part of the German Emperor's estate at Cadinen, where his famous pottery works are situated.

WANTED good second-hand Hall Braille Typewriter. Rev. W. E. Anderton, Oakwood, Woodford Green, Essex.

BRIGHTON BLIND SCHOOL FOR BOYS.—Wanted an **Assistant Female Teacher**, sighted, knowledge of Braille not essential. Institution experience preferred. Resident. Not under 25 years of age. State salary and qualifications. Apply Miss E. Green, 7, Percival Terrace, Brighton.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE JANUARY NUMBERS.

- Braille Literary Journal.**—The Real Austria and her Relations with Germany, by Caroline F. M. Zanardi Landi, from *The Nineteenth Century*—The Indian Hercules, by Saint Nihal Singh, from *The Strand Magazine*—Heroes of the Air—The German Future, by Twells Brex—In a Dervish Capital: Koniya (Iconium), by Louise Peralta, from *Chambers's Journal*—When Artists Err—Translator's Blunders—A Creed in Eight Lines.
- Progress.**—Editorial—Matters of the Moment—Biographies of the Blind: Mr. Alfred Hollins—Presentation to Mr. T. H. Martin—Prize Competition: "Christ in Flanders"—Our French Page—Friends in Council—Grave and Gay—Question Box—Poultry-Keeping for the People—Chess (F. H. Merrick)—How to take Care of the Sick at Home (*to be continued*)—Our Home Page—Advertisements—Supplement: "The Bait," a Complete Story, by W. Douglas Newton—Inset: Map of Serbia.
- Braille Musical Magazine.**—Editorial—Specification of Organ—The Responsive Psalter (*continued*)—First Modern Suite—Special Notice—Obituary—Correspondence—Rouget de L'isle, "La Marseillaise" and Berlioz, by Ernest Newman, from *Birmingham Daily Post*—Insets—Theme with Variations and Fugue (Organ), by Alfred Hollins—The Admiral's Broom (Song), by F. Bevan.
- Comrades.**—Letter from the Editor—The Blue Tit, by G. F. Bradby—Timothy's Shoes, Part IV. and V., "The Shoes at Church" and "The Poor Person," by J. H. Ewing—The Lights (Grade I.), by John Joy Bell.
- School Magazine.**—The Gorgon's Head, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*to be continued*)—Seaweed and its Uses, by F. A. Douglas, from *Chambers's Journal*—Monthly Almanack—Christmas in the Trenches—How we Destroy "U" Boats, by Reginald L. Foster—Coal we can't get—The Battle of Chalons.
- The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses** (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture on "Scoliosis," by Capt. R. C. Elmslie—Retrospect by Miss Robinson—Massage Examination—Official Notices.
- * * * *
- The Moon Magazine** (in Moon type).—Extracts from "The Cloister and the Hearth"—The Old Chieftain—Dogs in Warfare—How Different Nations Sleep—Long Distance Telephony—Early Shorthand in Egypt—Oldest Public Libraries—A Hard-worked Animal—The Homing Pigeon as a Messenger.

The National Institute for the Blind have For Sale a number of **Goat Skin Rugs** made by a blind man. They are beautifully made and are in a variety of patterns, each measuring 69 in. by 36 in., the price being 10s. 6d. apiece.

Comfortable Home for the blind or sighted, holiday or permanency. Braille taught, references exchanged. Seven minutes from the sea. Apply Mrs. FLITTON, 93, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

A partially blind N.C.O. (Duke of Wellington's Regiment) and his wife seek Post as **Caretakers**; both capable energetic, willing, good references; employment essential; son on active service. Apply The National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8, Great Portland Street, London, W.

Important to Superintendents, etc. of Institutions for the Blind. **PUPILS' PROGRESS BOOKS** for use in Schools for the Blind can now be obtained from The National Institute for the Blind. Sample submitted on application.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

MARCH, 1916.

No. 3.

Life of the Rev. William Hill-Murray.

By CONSTANCE F. GORDON CUMMING.

ABOUT the year 1852, a little lad, son of a working blacksmith at a sawmill in Glasgow, had carried his father's dinner to the mill. By a distressing accident his left arm was caught by the machinery and torn off, so at nine years of age he was crippled for life.

Determined to make the very best use of his life, he became an earnest student, and when old enough to earn his own living as a rural postman, he devoted his evenings to the study of Greek and Hebrew, and daily as he tramped his long rounds (eighteen miles) carrying the mail bags on his poor crippled shoulder, he studied either his Greek or Hebrew Testament. Nevertheless, he is still remembered as the most courteous and obliging of postmen.

Finding an ever increasing interest in his studies, he applied to the National Bible Society of Scotland to engage him as a colporteur—a request which was repeatedly refused, as the one-armed man seemed so well placed in the post office.

At last he was accepted, and for eight years carried on his own education, by rising at 3 a.m. in his fireless attic, to study for classes at the Old College of Glasgow, thence at 10 a.m. to start on his daily round of open air work for the N. B. S. Of this an important feature was travelling by boat among the foreign ships of all nations on the Clyde, where (though ignorant of any foreign language) he proved a most successful salesman.

In the year 1871 he was sent to North China as agent for the N. B. S., and at once threw his whole energy into learning the very difficult language and how to read it. Here the initial trouble arises from the fact *that China possesses no alphabet*. To read a simple book such as our Bible is accounted it is necessary to recognise at sight 4,000 very intricate symbols. Of these the classics of Confucius are said to contain 40,000.

Throwing his whole soul and ceaseless prayer into his study, Hill-Murray was able within two years to begin work as a street book-seller, and though it was then estimated that not more than five per cent. of the men, and one in 200 of the women could read, his

exceeding courtesy and unfailing good temper soon won him a favourable reception among a race who have always something of reverence for everything literary.

Moreover he was sometimes able to sell his thin paper-bound books to visitors from distant provinces. Thus the very first copy of the Scriptures which ever reached Manchuria was sold to Mr. Wang, who carried it thither, and drew attention to it. From that small centre the light radiated. Soon a small medical mission was established, and by the year 1900 there were fully 25,000 staunch Manchurian Christians. Of these upwards of a thousand who came one by one to the missionaries asking for baptism told them that their conversion was due to the teaching and example of one of the blind men trained by Mr. Hill-Murray.

Every visitor to China is amazed by the number of blind leading the blind in doleful processions, numbering from ten to twenty, all making a hideous noise with cymbals and castanets, and howling dismal ditties which induce the hearers to give them infinitesimal coins to bribe them to go and make their horrible music elsewhere. Their great multitude is due to leprosy, neglected ophthalmia, or scarlet fever, and largely to exceeding dirt.

As a general rule they bear a very bad character, but occasionally an adult who has been a devout heathen becomes blind, and retains the devout habit of mind. Now and then one of these amazed Mr. Hill-Murray by coming to buy a copy of "The Foreign Classics of Jesus," as he might have asked for "The Classics of Confucius." They said that they wished to possess the book, hoping that some one would read it to them, as they wished to know what it was about.

These purchases were the more remarkable considering the exceeding poverty of these men, and filled Hill-Murray with greater longing to help these unwonted customers. He told them that in his country the blind could be taught to read for themselves, but that was considered absolute fiction. For in that vast Empire the only attempts hitherto made to teach the blind had been far away in South China, where about eighty-four million persons speak a great variety of non-Mandarin languages, so varied as to be incomprehensible to one another.

In North China a population of about four hundred million talk very varied dialects of Mandarin Chinese, but all recognise that which is spoken at Peking as the true standard. Murray only found this out by degrees; but from the hour when he realised that nothing whatever had been attempted the subject was never out of his thoughts and prayers.

He experimented with Dr. Moon's embossed symbols, but found them impossible, and Dr. Louis Braille's beautiful system had only been introduced into Britain after he had sailed for China. These finally reached him through the instrumentality of a little Scotch girl, who just at the time when he arrived in Peking had been born blind in the very house where he was living, namely that of Dr. Dudgeon of Glasgow, Medical Missionary for the London Mission.

When the child was eight years old a lady was sent to Peking to teach her to read. Murray watched with keen interest, and at once saw how excellent is the system for a country which possesses an alphabet. But China has none. How could he utilise it?

In answer to his earnest prayer the thought was given to him—*use Braille's symbols to represent numerals*. Count the sounds in common use, and number them, representing each by one of Braille's symbols. He found that in the dialect spoken at Peking there are only 408 distinct sounds to be represented, instead of the 4,000 ideographs to be mastered for the simplest Chinese reading.

Having thus embossed certain portions of Scripture in numerals, which when touched by the gliding finger at once suggest the correct sound, Mr. Hill-Murray selected four blind men who were not lepers—a matter of some consequence in bringing them under his own roof, but who were otherwise typical cases, their fingers being either knotted with rheumatism or hardened by toil, and proceeded to teach them. In less than three months these four poor blind beggars could read and write fluently—far better than the majority of their sighted countrymen could do after six years of study.

It was at this moment—June 5th, 1879—that the writer of this paper reached Peking, and became an eye and ear witness of the perfect success of this very remarkable invention. But for several years longer the inventor continued to be recognised only as an excellent colporteur who had a curious fad for looking after blind pupils. So the development of the work was still left almost entirely to the self-denying efforts of a working man, who (with just one gift from a friend in Scotland) had contrived, with the meagre salary intended to support one man, to lodge, feed and clothe upwards of a dozen blind men and boys.

The latter, having become blind through neglect in small-pox, had been thrown out by their relatives into foul pools, there to suffocate in filthy black mud, or else to starve alone on wayside dung-heaps. When washed, fed and comforted, these small boys were taught to read to the sick men in hospital, who never wearied of hearing the little fellows, who read so fluently with the tips of their fingers.

One of these salvage boys actually started the School for Blind Women, for, *being under eight years of age*, he was admitted to the women's part of a house in which a blind woman longed to acquire this wonderful new art, which she could on no account have been allowed to be taught direct by Mr. Hill-Murray. But the small boy taught her to read, write and play the concertina, and then she announced her willingness to teach other women. Very soon we hear of two women from distant districts who each persuaded their relations to bring them a whole month's journey in the depth of winter on a horribly uncomfortable Chinese wheelbarrow, jolting over the rough frozen rice-fields that they might be taught by her to read the Scriptures, and thus enriched, return to teach others in their own villages. A considerable number of blind men thus carrying portions of the S. S. to distant provinces, and earnestly expounding them, have thus for many years been acting as blind evangelists.

Mr. Hill-Murray also devised an adaptation of the tonic sol-fa in numerals by which he taught all his pupils to read and write music, and also to play the accompaniments of about 200 hymns on harmoniums and American organs, which he had contrived to buy very cheap as being quite worthless. But getting a Chinaman with two hands, to

help his one hand, they replaced the rusty wires, the split reeds, and decayed felts and leathers, and produced instruments on which this self-taught musician taught his blind pupils so efficiently that a number of them are now organists at different mission stations.

In 1889 a totally new branch of work was revealed to him. Some poor sighted Christians came to him, urging him to devise some easy method by which they also might learn to read as rapidly as the blind. Very sorrowfully he explained to them that the dots could only be felt by the finger, and were useless to those who would read by the eyes.

In his grave perplexity he made it a matter of earnest prayer that God would guide him to some means by which he might help these people who did so wish to learn to read. Then in direct answer to his prayer the thought was flashed into his mind, *just connect the dots by straight black lines*. That was all—a very simple thought, but one which solved the whole difficulty. By so doing he produced a series of lines, angles and squares, forming the simplest set of symbols ever devised for use in any country—geometric figures denoting numerals, both of which are held in reverence by the Chinese.

These he had cast in metal printing type and gave them to his blind students who were embossing the Scriptures for their own use. They at once recognised them as being their own symbols, but asked why lines had been used instead of dots? "Because," said Mr. Hill-Murray, "you are now going to print books for sighted persons, and you will teach them to read from these books." And this has proved a wonderful success. The neat fingered blind compositors set up the type, and when the book was printed, a blind man or a blind girl took a class of perhaps a dozen sighted persons—perhaps ignorant field workers—and in less than three months all would be able to read and write, and could return to their villages able to teach others, who in their turn could carry on the chain of blessing to remote villages, carrying with them the cheap paper-bound books printed at the blind school.

Through much opposition and amid many difficulties Mr. Hill-Murray held calmly on his way, gradually developing his system, and as friends in Britain strove to arouse interest, he was at length able to secure really good old Chinese houses which were transformed into schools for blind men and blind women. There were good printing-presses where all were busily at work, useful and happy. Then in the year 1900 came the awful Boxer troubles.

Happily, though in imminent danger, Mrs. Hill-Murray and her children were not in Peking when the murderers encompassed the city. Her husband was compelled by the Mandarins to join the other foreigners in the British Legation, promising themselves to guard the blind schools. But as soon as the Boxers drew near the Chinese guard fled, and the enemy rushed in and massacred all the blind women and girls, and as many as they could catch of the blind men. When they had plundered everything they coveted they set fire to the whole, and the well-seasoned timber of the old Chinese houses formed a funeral pyre which utterly consumed every vestige of the massacre.

After the nine weeks terror of the siege of the Legations most foreigners left Peking as quickly as possible, but Hill-Murray at once

ran up the Union Jack on an empty deserted house in which he established himself and such survivors of his blind students as he was able to recover after months of patient search. He was kept perpetually going to and fro over the huge city, exhausted by suffocating midsummer heat, and constantly exposed to such pitiless rain that for four months he never knew the luxury of dry clothes. This brought on torturing neuralgia in the head, and such excruciating agony in the right eye so that for months he was unable to read or write.

At length he quite broke down, and was sent to London to see what could be done for him. He was received as an in-patient at the Royal Eye Hospital in the City Road. Alas! it was at once pronounced that the right eye had become totally blind from glaucoma, and that the left was seriously damaged. That poor diseased eye was an abiding badge of heroism. Never was V.C. more gallantly won in the service of poor defenceless creatures than that most honourable scar.

After about two years in Scotland the whole family—father, mother and seven children—returned to Peking, there to pick up the threads of their life work.

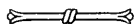
In A.D. 1911 the staunch old missionary entered into rest. On his simple marble tombstone, designed by Bishop Norris, in the cemetery of the British Legation, it is recorded that William Hill-Murray was "Born June 3rd, 1841; died September 6th, 1911. He taught the blind to read the Word of God."

Since his death his very capable and energetic widow and daughters continue the work of the school with the loyal aid of earnest Chinese teachers.

One of the sons, who has for some years been in Glasgow in special training, to return to Peking in the spring of 1916, there to undertake charge of the Mission, has felt that for the present the claims of the Empire are paramount, so he and his two brothers are now serving their country as soldiers, hoping to resume work in China when the war is over.

Having always been recognised officially simply as an agent of the National Bible Society from which he received his salary, Hill-Murray and his work never received pecuniary help from any of the great societies, nor any share of the benefactions left to any society for its missions—not even when these have been left by individuals who while they lived were ever willing to help his cause.

Its maintenance therefore continues to depend on voluntary gifts, which will be gratefully received by the Official Treasurer, James Drummond, Esq., Chartered Accountant, 232, West George Street, Glasgow, or by Miss C. F. Gordon Cumming, College House, Crieff, Scotland.



MR. C. ARTHUR PEARSON has started a sale of "Regimental Rings" on behalf of the blinded soldiers at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park. Everybody wishing to help these brave men who have suffered so cruelly for us should buy one. They are made in gold shell at 2s. 6d. each, or in 9 carat gold at a guinea, and each one is engraved with any crest required.

SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND. No. IX.

The Sheffield Institution for the Blind.

BY SAMUEL MADDOCKS, Superintendent, Director of Education, and Secretary.

THE Institution comprises the following departments: 1.—The School, in Manchester Road, Broomhill, certified for the maintenance, education, and clothing of 35 boys and 35 girls, total 70, of whom 15 are Sheffield children. 2.—The Manufactory and Retail Shop, 57-59, West Street, for the employment of men and women in brush, mat, and basket-making, &c., and for the sale of goods. 3.—The Home Mission, 57-59, West Street, for the relief and assistance of the necessitous blind, for visiting and assisting the aged blind in their own homes, and for teaching the adult blind to read embossed books. There is also a lending library connected with this branch. 4.—The Overend Cottages for Blind Pensioners, in Selbourne Road, Crosspool.

THE SCHOOL.—This building, on two acres of ground nearly 700 feet above sea-level, was erected at a cost of nearly £15,000, by means of a fund provided by voluntary contributions, with a view to secure for the benefit of the blind the conditional bequest of the late Daniel Holy, Esq., of Newbould, near Chesterfield, but formerly of Sheffield. To comply with the terms of Mr. Holy's will it was necessary that the building should be erected and made ready for the reception of inmates before the 24th April, 1880. It was publicly opened, free from debt, on the 24th September, 1879, by Samuel Roberts, Esq., J.P., of the Towers, the Town Collector of Sheffield.

Since the opening ceremony, a Boys' Play-room and a Girls' Play-room have been built in the grounds, and a Fire-escape Staircase has been added to the boys' end of the main building, and also to the girls' end, both in ornamental iron.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION.—Applicants are eligible for admission from five until sixteen years of age. They must either be totally blind, or not possessed of sufficient sight to be able to read the ordinary school books used by sighted children. They must also be free from bodily and mental defects which would prevent them receiving instruction, or from following some useful occupation. If under 16, application should be made to the Secretary, Education Office, for the district in which the child resides. If over 16, application should be made to the nearest institution where provision is made for trade education (ages 16-21) *e.g.*, Leatherhead, Liverpool, Manchester, and Nottingham, etc.

CHARGES.—£21 per annum for Sheffield pupils, and £25 for non-Sheffielders, payable in advance. Accounts are rendered by the Superintendent on the 1st of January, April, July, and October. This includes maintenance, education, and clothing, but not travelling expenses, which will be added to the quarterly accounts.

In case the parents are unable to make the necessary payments for their child's maintenance, application should be made to the Secretary of the Education Authority for the district in which the child resides.

CLOTHING.—Parents are expected to provide holiday clothing for their children. If they are unable to do this, certain clothing will be

lent on the understanding that it is returned, clean, and in good repair. A tin box, not more than 2 ft. by 1 ft., should be sent to hold any clothing or books that may be required for holiday use.

On admission, the children need bring with them only such clothing as they require for going home at holiday times. Holiday clothing is not worn at School.

An outfit on admission is not required.

HOLIDAYS.—There are holidays twice during the year, when all pupils are required to return to their homes, viz., five weeks at Midsummer, and four weeks at Christmas.

We send the pupils to the railway stations in cabs in charge of the teachers. The parents meet them at the various destinations, in accordance with a holiday circular sent a month previously.

VISITING DAYS.—The building is open to visitors every day (except Sundays and Saturdays) during ordinary school hours, and to the parents and friends of the pupils on the first Saturday in every month, from 2 to 5 p.m. Pupils must not be taken from the school or grounds without the permission of the Superintendent or Matron.

There is always a teacher on outside duty, in the grounds, for boys, and also for the girls.

SUBJECTS TAUGHT.—Bible lessons, moral instruction, hymns, reading, writing, arithmetic, recitation, grammar, geography, history, information lessons, conversational lessons, nursery rhymes, music—vocal and instrumental (organ and piano), Braille music; drill. Manual Occupations—Beginners (boys and girls): Spoon and fork, feeders, boot-lacing, buttoning, bed-making, &c. Boys—*Cane work, *basket work, *mat, *brush, *wood, typewriting, stencilling. Girls—Chair work, hand knitting, *machine knitting, netting, sewing, weaving, typewriting, stencilling, embossed printing.

RELIGIOUS TRAINING (NON-SECTARIAN).—The Bible is taught and lessons in "Moral Instruction" are given, and the children are taken to Church or Chapel, according to the wishes of the parents. Two services are held every day at the School.

DAILY ROUTINE.—6.30 a.m., pupils rise; 7.30 to 8, breakfast; 8 to 8.45, make own beds and change slippers; 8.45 to 9, children and staff assemble for prayers; 9 to 12, morning lessons; 12 to 12.30, recreation; 12.30 to 1, dinner; 1 to 2, recreation; 2 to 4.30, afternoon lessons; 4.30 to 6, recreation; 6 to 6.30, tea; 6.30 to 6.45, evening prayers; 7, younger pupils retire for the night; 7 to 8, newspapers and standard authors are read to elder pupils; 8, elder pupils retire for the night; 10, staff retire for the night.

HON. SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN.—Since 1867, W. R. Carter, Esq., J.P., has filled the post of Hon. Secretary to the Sheffield Institution for the Blind, and has been Chairman since 1883.

To show their appreciation of Mr. Carter's long and valuable services the Committee presented him with his portrait and a replica, which has been placed in the Hall at the School in Manchester Road.

Those marked * are taken by the foremen-teachers from our workshops in town.

Montreal School for the Blind.

SIR JOHN KENNEDY'S ADDRESS.

THE blind are not helpless, but merely handicapped. If they have the courage to rise above their affliction and adjust themselves to it, they may fight the battle of life as successfully as others.

This lesson, with a plea for Governmental and private assistance for the education of the blind, was the theme of an address given by Sir John Kennedy, presiding last evening at the New Year's entertainment at the Montreal School for the Blind, 6500, Sherbrooke Street West.

It was the first public appearance of Sir John since he was knighted by the King for his distinguished services as an engineer, and he was warmly congratulated on having attained this honour; but chiefly on the fact that, despite his blindness, he had kept on with his chosen career, and won great success in it.

P. E. Layton, honorary treasurer of the Montreal Association for the blind, and the founder of the school, read a congratulatory address to Sir John.

In his address as Chairman, Sir John Kennedy traced the work that has been done to encourage education of the blind, and said that if the blind man only came to the belief that he was not helpless or an object of sympathy, he could go far. He would be shut out of some pursuits, of course, but plenty of others were open to him. Courage was the requisite, and education. The Social Club, giving the concert last night was, he said, an organization to encourage the blind, to provide them with entertainment and to help them in every way.

P. E. Layton, in seconding a vote of thanks to Sir John, moved by James Carragher, said in part:—

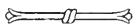
“During your professional career you have rendered valuable services to your country. Through your personal efforts the channel of the River St. Lawrence has been deepened, our harbour greatly enlarged and improved, so that Montreal to-day is known as one of the great seaports of the world. You have directed the building of immense piers at Halifax under great difficulties, and to accomplish this you have invented and constructed most wonderful machinery. For all this work the Canadian public owes you an everlasting debt of gratitude, but the best thing you ever did, Sir John, and the biggest thing you will ever do, was at that moment when you were stricken with blindness, you arose like a man and said:—‘I will not allow this great calamity to interfere with my life’s work.’

“Many men and women who lose their sight late in life absolutely succumb to the shock and blow, but you rose superior to your trouble, thus your name all through posterity will be handed down as an example and incentive to those who lose their sight after middle age.

“It is a significant fact that some of your greatest engineering achievements have been accomplished during the time of your blindness, thus you have demonstrated that thought is the great motive power of this world, and not physical eyesight. For this the blind thank and honour you.

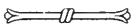
"People, through ignorance, are constantly limiting the capabilities of the blind. The fact is, when properly trained, the blind can do many things, and do them just as well as those blessed with eyesight. They are not the poor, dependent, helpless creatures that some people think, and this you have clearly proved during the last ten years in which you have been deprived of sight.

"What the blind need are education and opportunity, and these we are trying to give them in this school building, and in the adjoining industrial home for the adult blind. All we need is financial support from the Government and the public."—*Montreal Star*, Jan. 14th, 1916.



Help for the Blind Poor.

"THE poverty of the blind has certainly increased during this war, and the special extra care they have had has been fully appreciated." This was a passage which appeared in the report presented by Miss Isabel M. Heywood, honorary secretary, to the annual meeting of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, held at Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, on Thursday. Describing the varied ways in which the society helps the blind, the report pointed out that besides having found employment in such things as brush-making, woolwork, Braille writing and bookbinding, for over sixty persons the society had assisted others to independence as tea agents, newspaper vendors, hawkers, and by putting them in little shops or businesses. Among other features of the work were the running of a grocery store, where food for the blind was sold at very low prices, the provision of clothing, the holiday home, at Southport, and a permanent home in Eccles Old Road for thirty-one blind women. The Braille library continued successfully at the central rooms in Artillery Street, Deansgate, and these rooms also formed a cheerful centre for sociability. Regarding finances the society expended £1,929 last year, with the result that the deficit of £247 with which the year began had increased to £386. Colonel W. W. Clapham presided over the meeting, and other speakers included Sir Edward Donner, Mr. Stewart Garnett, the Rev. A. E. Cornibeer, Mr. Fitzgerald Falkner, Mr. Alfred Simpson, and Mr. Thomas Barningham. The personal element and the human sympathy which characterise the society's work was emphasised, and the point was also urged that notwithstanding the many claims arising through the war there was as great a need as ever to help the blind poor.—*Manchester City News*, February 12th, 1916.



A Blind Judge.

THAT a blind man should be appointed to the eminent position of a judge of the Court of Session seems to be rather incredible. But, nevertheless, this was the case, as related by Lord Guthrie in the course of a lecture on Scottish Historical Societies in Glasgow recently. The person referred to was Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington, whose blindness did not in any way detract from his eminence as a judge.

A Modern Miracle.

WONDERFUL RECOVERY OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

If you stood 'im on 'is 'ead,
 Father Bobs,
 You could spill a quart o' lead
 Outer Bobs.
 'E's been at it thirty years,
 An-amassin souveneers
 In the way o' slugs an' spears—
 Ain't yer, Bobs?

—*Kipling.*

MEDICAL men have reported many remarkable cases of the recovery of wounded men—cases where a fatal termination seemed inevitable—but it is doubtful if there has been any as astonishing as the case of Private G. A. Dawson, of the 10th Yorkshire Regiment, son of a well-known newsagent at Bishop Auckland, who is now in the King George Military Hospital, Stamford Street, S.E.

Private Dawson has created so much interest among members of the medical profession that he has been seen by scores of surgeons, while many of the leading men in the profession have paid special visits, not only to see the patient, but to look at the wonderful relic which he possesses.

Private Dawson was one of those young men who rushed to the colours directly war broke out. He went to France with his regiment last year, and, after serving five months in the trenches, he was wounded on December 12th.

He was in a village behind the lines, which was being shelled, and before he could get to his cellar “dug out” a shell knocked him out.

Unconscious, he was taken to the base hospital, and there, from a great hole in the centre of his forehead, directly above his nose, there was removed:—

A large piece of shell;
 A piece of wood; and
 Part of his cap.

For twenty days Dawson hovered between life and death. His face became swollen and black, and nothing the surgeons could do seemed to reduce the swelling.

On December 31st, Dawson was removed to a hospital at Boulogne, and there he was put under the X-rays immediately on his arrival. The photograph disclosed a strange state of affairs.

In the private's left cheek was a large piece of shell, which must have entered through the hole in the forehead and passed down the side of the nose.

On New Year's Day Private Dawson was operated upon again, and so skilful was the operator that this piece of shell, which was found to weigh $2\frac{3}{4}$ ozs., was removed by the way it had entered, so that there should not be a scar of any sort on the private's cheek.

The piece of shell—about a quarter of an inch thick, with torn and jagged edges—is a relic prized greatly by Private Dawson, who keeps it wrapped in cotton wool in a bag which hangs at the head of his bed.

As soon as it was possible Private Dawson was removed to London, a special motor ambulance meeting him at all the stages of his journey.

Another remarkable feature about the case is that by a further operation last Monday at the King George Hospital the sight of his left eye was saved.

To use his own expression, the piece of shell when passing into his cheek "turned the lens of my left eye over." The effect was that instead of pointing outward it was pointing to the top of his head, with the result that he had been unable to see with it.

A celebrated ophthalmic surgeon has righted the lens of the eye, and in a few days Private Dawson will be able to see again with his left eye.

All the doctors who have seen Dawson express the opinion that it is little short of a miracle that he is still alive.—*Northern Echo*, January 28th, 1916.



Blinded Soldiers at Brighton.

TWO AFFLICTED MEN AS "POETS."

It is really surprising the way our soldiers who have been blinded in the war take their affliction. Not for one moment do they make public lamentation of their misfortune, bearing their deprivation of sight with the heroic fortitude which has so much endeared our wounded Tommies to us. To lose one's sight in the service of one's country is a heavy sacrifice of the war, and the wonderful patience of these blinded heroes is one of the bright episodes of the world struggle. As an illustration of the unconquerable spirit of these sightless but dauntless heroes a "jingle" composed by two of them, Private F. W. Matthews, Bedfordshire Regiment, and Private W. Girling, 5th Yorkshire Regiment, now inmates of the Queen's Road Annexe to the St. Dunstan's Home, is given below. Matthews was twice mentioned in dispatches for distinguished conduct under fire, while Girling has had four shrapnel bullets extracted from his head. As a result of their injuries both men are now totally blind. The rhyme which they have composed is intended to be a parody on "A Little Bit of Heaven," and it goes to shew the unquenchable spirit of the British "Tommy."

Sure a little bit of shrapnel
Fell from our the gun one day
And nestled in my left eye
And blew it clean away.

And when the doctor saw it,
It looked so sweet and fair.
He said, "suppose we leave it,
It looks quite peaceful there."

They sprinkled it with iodine
And made it feel so sore.
'Tis a rotten place to have it,
Because you see no more.

Then they covered it with bandages
And made it look so smart,
And when it was all finished
I was properly in the dark.

—*Brighton Argus*, February 9th, 1916.

Educating the Blind.

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE.

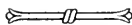
A CONCERT given on Saturday afternoon, February 12th, at the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, provided parents and friends of the pupils with an opportunity of seeing what wonderful work is accomplished at the college. Only those acquainted with the difficulties to be overcome in training the sightless could fully appreciate the excellence of the results achieved. Among the pupils there are a number of very capable singers, but what was even more compelling of admiration was the remarkable skill shown by some of the students at the piano.

One little mite had a great reception for her recitation of "The North Pole Man and the South Pole Man." Her gestures were graceful and appropriate, and it is here that the greatest trials and successes of the teachers comes in. Those who see others perform can imitate the actions, but the blind have to be taught each little movement. The success which the staff have attained in training their pupils in this respect was further emphasised in a short play, "Vice Versa." The actors trod the stage with a confident ease and grace.

At the close of the concert Mr. C. J. Drummond, J.P., congratulated Mr. Guy M. Campbell, the principal of the college and his staff, on the excellence of their work. The question of finance, he said, was a serious one at present, when there were so many claims on the charitable. The training of blind soldiers was naturally regarded as one of the pressing problems of the day, and while it was only right that every provision should be made for them, the needs of others should not be forgotten. If the work done at this college were better known it would be more widely appreciated, and there would be less risk of financial stringency.

A number of certificates of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music were presented to pupils by Mrs. Drummond.

It may be mentioned that the expenses of the college amount to between £10,000 and £11,000 a year, and on the past year's working there was a deficit of £1,500.



Items.

Grist for the War Mill.

LADY MAUD WILBRAHAM has been responsible for a charity innovation which has yielded satisfactory financial results. In company with two friends at Wimbledon she conceived the idea of turning into account old silver thimbles, for which they made an appeal. The result was the collection of 5,000 thimbles and thousands of silver trinkets and coins. Another novel method of raising money is the selling of hair. Many women have given their tresses, and a Mayfair hairdresser has paid good prices for them. The latter scheme was inaugurated for the benefit of blind soldiers at St. Dunstan's.

Blind Man and his Son.

By EMILE CAMMAERTS (Belgian poet).

"The distant boom of angry guns
 No longer fills my ear;
 Oh, whither have we fled, my son?
 Tell me, that I may hear."
 "Father, we are in England!"

"No more I hear the stormy wind
 Amid the rigging roar;
 I feel beneath my tottering feet
 The firm ground of the shore.
 Is this the end of all our woes?
 Shall we not suffer more?"
 "Father, we are in England!"

"I hear the sound of kindly speech,
 But do not understand;
 I feel I've wandered very far,
 Far from the Fatherland;
 How comes it that these tones are not
 Those of an unknown land?"
 "Father, we are in England!"

"Bend down upon thy knees, my son,
 And take into thy hand,
 Thy wounded hand, and mine, somewhat
 Of the earth of this good land,
 That, dreaming of our home, we two
 May kiss the soil of England!"

—*The Dundee Advertiser*, February 7th, 1916.

* * * *

Utilising the Disabled.

WHILE German organisation in many ways elicits admiration, it also at times reveals the callous materialism which is the outcome of the new kultur. It is, for instance, an admirable thing to provide for those disabled in the war, preparation and training for useful work. This has been and is being done both in this country and among our Allies. But no preparation had been made by us before the war, because these countries did not desire or anticipate a conflict. An American doctor who travelled in Germany during the autumn of 1914 relates how, from the very first, the Germans made ready to turn those of no further use for military work to some value to the State as occupied wage-earners, not allowing them to become unemployed pensioners. On arriving from the front the wounded were sorted into classes, and those who had lost a limb were taught to harden the stump, so that no time should be lost in wearing an artificial substitute. There are schools for one-armed men and others for one-legged men, with special schools even for the blind. It took Germany only two weeks to bring order out of the first chaos of war, whilst the least surgically prepared nation required about half a year for this.

Drugs and Massage for Wounded Soldiers.

A FRENCH journal reports that the Société Magnétique de France is taking steps to teach massage gratuitously to soldiers blinded in the war. It is, of course, well known that the blind are eminently qualified for this work, as their sense of touch is usually very highly developed. In an article in the same journal Dr. Gaston Durville appeals for a natural method of curing disease, as opposed to the employment of drugs. He admits that one of the prime difficulties is the patient himself, who usually values medical advice by the amount of potions and pills prescribed, and is inclined to treat with contempt any suggestion that he should eat less, or walk more, or drink plenty of cold water.

* * * *

Blind Man Without Arms Reads Raised Letters.

One of the residents of a home for railroad men at Highland Park, Ill., is both blind and armless. In spite of this handicap he is far from being helpless, and incidentally offers a rather striking example of the resourcefulness sometimes shown by men when put to an extreme test, says the January *Popular Mechanics Magazine* in an illustrated article. Instead of depending entirely upon others he has learned to care for himself in a remarkable way. He reads and also walks about in the grounds without assistance.

Since he has no hands with which to follow the raised characters in books provided for the blind he uses his tongue. To most people this would be little else than a maddening, nerve-killing ordeal, but to him it is a way to read and he makes use of it.

Stretched between two trees 130 feet apart on the lawn at the institution is a wire on which a large spool has been sprung. On pleasant days when the man wishes to exercise he is taken to the line by one of his comrades or an attendant. He rests the stump of an arm over the spool and walks to and fro, guiding himself without difficulty.

* * * *

A Neat Trick.

The blatant showman was making a great fuss at the front of his exhibition. A man standing in the crowd with a little boy said quietly:

"I'll bet you five shillings you cannot let me see a lion."

"Done," said the showman eagerly. "Put down your money."

The man placed five shillings in the hand of a bystander, and the showman did the same.

"Now walk this way, and I'll very soon convince you."

"There you are," he said triumphantly. "Look in that corner at the beautiful Nubian lion."

"I don't see any," immediately responded the other.

"Why, what's the matter with you?" asked the showman.

"I'm blind," was the quiet reply, and in a few minutes the blind man had pocketed the ten shillings and gone his way to invest it in War Loan.

Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility for the views of his correspondents.]

THE STANDARD DOT SYSTEM.

DEAR SIR,—When Mr. Holmes, of the *Ziegler Magazine*, stated that in the reading tests given by the Uniform Type Committee the British Braille had surpassed both American Braille and New York Point, I think that many of us received the impression that it was to be adopted by the United States. At all events, not wishing to be behindhand we all went to work and learned English Braille. Perhaps I should not say "all," as I am not in a position to speak for the whole United States, but I know that although British Braille is not taught in our schools, many of the young people have learned it, and I assure you that we know a good thing when we see it. Such is the perversity of human nature that the Standard Dot System has done its most effective work by creating a hearty interest in English Braille. The statistics of the New York Public Library will bear me out in this statement. While I know that the work of the Uniform Type Committee was thorough, and was done in all sincerity, yet a purely American Association cannot march into another man's land and expect him to part with his long-cherished possessions, especially when it does not offer him something infinitely better. From the New York Library I borrow *Santa Lucia* and also your very interesting magazine, and although they are several months old when I get them they are always very welcome. What do you do to the Braille that keeps it in such splendid condition for such a long time? The books and magazines must go through the mail many times and are read by many people, yet they are as fresh and legible when I receive them as when first printed.

Wishing the good friends in England a successful New Year in all their good work.—I remain, very sincerely yours, ALISON ULES,
Dover, New Hampshire.

* * * *

DEAR SIR,—In *Progress* for this month, Mr. Ford in the latter part of his letter refers to an old rule respecting signs ch, st, etc., which reminded me of another one quite as important to the touch, that is, 4-6 "a," 4-6 "b," 4-6 "k," 4-6 "l," which had to be written on the 2-4-6 side of the cell, when followed by a sign from the same numbers to lesson the space between them, it being too wide in such words as along, belong, long, and several others which are all hindrances to me in reading. Therefore, I should like to know what our Friends in Council think about it. Please insert this in your next number of *Progress* and you will greatly oblige.—Yours truly, J. INGHAM.

A partially blind N.C.O. (Duke of Wellington's Regiment) and his wife seek Post as **Caretakers**; both capable, energetic, willing; good references; employment essential; son on active service. Apply The National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8, Great Portland Street, London, W.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE FEBRUARY NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—Bagdad, City of the Kalifs, by William Warfield, from *Harper's Monthly Magazine*—The Wonderful Story of Warsaw, told by G. H. Mewes, from *The London Magazine*—The Sham, from *The National Review*—Trench Warfare on the Western Front, by Nimrod, from *Chambers's Journal*.

Progress.—Editorial—Matters of the Moment—Biographies of the Blind: Henry Martyn Taylor, M.A.—War Miracles—Bravest Deeds of the War—How Leap Year Affects You—Friends in Council—Our French Page—Grave and Gay—Comments on the "Braille Weekly Edition of The Daily Mail"—Question Box—Chess (F. H. Merrick)—How to take Care of the Sick at Home (*to be continued*)—Our Home Page—Advertisements—Supplements: "The Homing Instinct," a Complete Story, by William Freeman—"Touching Wood," and other Superstitions, from *T.P.'s Weekly*.

Comrades.—Valentine's Day in 1916, by The Editor—Into Battle (Two Stanzas), by Captain Julian Grenfell—Timothy's Shoes, Part VI., "The Dirty Boy," by J. H. Ewing—The Sun's Travels, by R. L. Stevenson.

School Magazine.—The Gorgon's Head, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*concluded*)—Germany's Secret Plans for Invading England, by James R. Fergusson—Monthly Almanack—A Lucky Thought, by E. Le Breton Martin—The Bravest Deeds of the War—Big Bluffs in War.

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Resignation of Miss Robinson—Lecture on the Mechanism of the Voice, by Courtlandt MacMahon, B.A. (Oxon)—The Treatment of Trench Feet, by Capt. E. B. Clayton—Official Notices—Massage for the Wounded.

* * * *

The Moon Magazine (in Moon type).—An English Woman's Adventures in the German's Lines—Busy King Edward—London's *Daily Telegraph*—Making it up After the War—Surgical Magnets—Flowers as Food—Harvests Every Month—In Mesopotamia.

The National Institute for the Blind have For Sale a number of **Goat Skin Rugs** made by a blind man. They are beautifully made and are in a variety of patterns, each measuring 69 in. by 36 in., the price being 10s. 6d. apiece.

Comfortable Home for the blind or sighted, holiday or permanency. Braille taught, references exchanged. Seven minutes from the sea. Apply Mrs. FLITTON, 93, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

Important to Superintendents, etc. of Institutions for the Blind. **PUPILS' PROGRESS BOOKS** for use in Schools for the Blind can now be obtained from The National Institute for the Blind. Sample submitted on application.

REVISED BRAILLE SHORTHAND.

BRAILLE EDITION, price 1s. post free.

LETTERPRESS, price 6d., post free 7½d.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

APRIL, 1916.

No. 4.

Editorial.

WE have been turning over the following fact in our mind lately : In *The Braille Review* we have a periodical that is unique in journalism. It is, we may safely claim, the only monthly magazine of its kind, and it seems to us that this alone is something which should militate for an increased circulation and a wider range of operations.

The other day it was brought to our notice that there are people who believe that *The Braille Review* is printed in Braille type. That the title of our journal is in a sense misleading we are willing to admit ; at the same time it is difficult to discover another title which will convey its aims and scope—that of the paper for all those who are interested in the regrettably-large sightless community.

We therefore take this opportunity of asking all our friends and subscribers to take steps to contradict any false impressions that may be extant, and to do all in their power to make our journal more widely known. And for our part we promise to do all in our power to provide as interesting a magazine as possible.

There are many ways in which our sphere of influence can be increased. For example, we are in touch with all who are working on behalf of the blind community all the world over. There must be many workshops who require orders for socks and necessities for soldiers at the front, prisoners of war, the sick and the wounded. We invite the Managers of these to write to us and state their requirements, when we would make it our business to see that such orders would be carried out and thus be a means of bringing employers and employees in closer touch.

We also welcome all criticisms and suggestions for improvements. We want to drive the last nail in the coffin of the " Pity the poor blind " notion. We want all sighted people to realise the fact that the blind community does not consist of a collection of helpless mortals who like to sit at street corners and voice a whining appeal for pennies, but consists for the most part of vigorous human beings who are sorely handicapped in the battle of life by the fact that they cannot use their eyes, but who nevertheless possess other faculties which can be awakened and developed so as to compensate, in great measure, for their handicap. We are continually being reminded of this fact. Only recently, in the

PROPERTY OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

examination held by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses for masseurs, open to the whole world, a blind student of The National Institute, Mr. Percy L. Way, *headed the pass list*, while another student of the Institute, Mr. Norman Webb, was sixth.

As musicians, as lawyers, as teachers, as clergymen, as poultry-keepers, as divers—blind men have proved themselves competent to hold their own, and more than hold their own in such branches of life with sighted rivals.

Sympathy and understanding are pearls of great price. Unintelligent pity is just the reverse.

THE EDITOR.



Our Blinded Soldiers.

MR. C. ARTHUR PEARSON has been interviewed by a representative of the Press Association with regard to Mr. H. J. Tennant's statement in the House of Commons as to the number of men who have been blinded at the front.

"Mr. Tennant," said Mr. Pearson, "no doubt informed the House in good faith that the total number of non-commissioned officers and men blinded in the war up to January 31 was 65. He gave as his authority the Chelsea Pension Roll, but this authority is quite misleading, as it presumably deals only with the cases of men who have been awarded the full permanent pension. Numbers of men at St. Dunstan's who have no eyes in their heads and numbers of others whose eyes are totally useless have been awarded temporary pensions. These temporary pensions will, of course, be confirmed, and it is not fair to omit such cases from the total of blinded soldiers. There were on January 31st 113 non-commissioned officers and men who have been awarded permanent or temporary full pensions as totally or practically devoid of sight. There is no question as to the accuracy of this figure, as all of these men, with the exception of two (who are mentally deficient) are or have been at St. Dunstan's.

"There are also a large number of men who have not been discharged from the Army and in whose cases, therefore, the question of pensions has not been settled. There are altogether in this country at the present moment to my knowledge 178 non-commissioned officers and men who have been blinded at the front. There are also nine officers and 15 colonials, including one Canadian officer. Practically all these men have been, are, or will be at St. Dunstan's. In addition to these figures there are no doubt a number of men in hospital of whom I have not yet heard, for in many hospitals the authorities seem to take the curious delight in hiding blinded men away instead of transferring them to the 2nd London General Hospital, in accordance with War Office instructions. I do not want the public to think that the statements which have been issued from St. Dunstan's with regard to blinded soldiers are anything but correct. These men have quite enough to bear without the importance of their case being minimised officially."

Alfred Hirst.

ALFRED HIRST was born at Huddersfield in 1845, and received his education, until his sixteenth year, at the Huddersfield College, then a school of considerable reputation in Yorkshire. He showed an all-round interest in his work, with an especial bent for mathematics, in which subject he gained a medal. He also learnt to play a good game of cricket, and later on gave a fine account of himself in first-class matches. But the first three years after leaving school he spent on a brother's "run" in South Australia, as a preparation for joining his father's business, that of a wool-stapler. Young Hirst thoroughly enjoyed the open air life and retained a vivid memory of Australia in after days. On his return he entered the business, took an active part in politics, travelled in Norway and on the Continent, and at home enjoyed holiday times of hunting and shooting.

It may be noted that with a friend he was one of the first to enter Paris after its capitulation in 1871. During the month of March the two young men visited the ruined forts and devastated villages round Paris, and, luckily for themselves, left the city just before the outbreak of the Commune. The sight of this destruction left a deep and unfading horror of war on Alfred Hirst's mind. In 1868, when only 23, he had married Miss Mary Wrigley of Huddersfield, who was to be his unfailing help and support in the dark years to come. They were staying at Whitby with their three young children when the shadow began to fall. Henry Fawcett was blinded on a shooting expedition, and it was while shooting that Alfred Hirst noticed the first symptoms of failing sight. Later, he told the story himself. "It was on a farm near Sandsend, forming part of the Mulgrave estate, and it was September 1, 1873. We were to begin the day's sport by walking through a field of standing barley. I had not proceeded far when with the well-known sound so delightful to the ears of the sportsman a covey rose, and raising my gun and closing my left eye, I found that instead of seeing as usual almost every feather, a "dim suffusion veiled" the sight of my right eye, and I could barely distinguish the brown patch made by the startled partridges. I did my best for the remainder of that day, and before leaving Whitby the next morning I visited an optician, but found that none of his glasses were of the slightest avail. It was at this time that I first heard of that terrible disease known as amaurosis, or atrophy of the optic nerve. I then became somewhat alarmed, and a few days after went to London to consult specialists." It was always an interest to him that the cause of his blindness was the same as that of his beloved poet Milton. By December, 1874, he was blind. Up to this time there had been little to mark him out from hundreds of other able men of business, but the unflinching determination with which he set out to work to overcome his great disability, and even to use it for the help of other sufferers, showed his innate strength of character.

His business entailed dealing in large quantities of wool, and judging of their quality and value. But he carried it on for twelve more years, learning to work by touch alone. Indeed, seven years later he went out on behalf of his firm to the Australian markets, bought 10,000 bales of wool to the complete satisfaction of his partners, and managed his own shipping and banking business, without other help than that of his secretary. In 1876 two great alleviations of his blindness came into his life. He heard accidentally of the Braille type, and through this he got into touch with the British and Foreign Blind Association (now The National Institute for the Blind) and formed a life-long friendship with its founder, Dr. T. R. Armitage, the great leader and benefactor of the blind world.

He learnt Braille in a few days, as twenty years later he learnt to use a type-writer. Both acquirements proved of untold value to him. Much as he delighted in listening to reading he could always find solace and entertainment in his Braille books, chief among them Milton and Wordsworth. He also marked his playing-cards in Braille and enjoyed many games of whist and cribbage. With his typewriter, in later years, he not only carried on a large private correspondence, but wrote countless articles upon blind topics for the press, besides many upon the Australian wool trade on which he was an acknowledged expert. An extraordinarily retentive memory enabled him to make the best use of his wide knowledge of market conditions and the general prospects of sheep breeding.

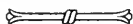
His friendship with Dr. Armitage was one of the greatest blessings of his life. Alfred Hirst had a profound admiration for the work of three helpers of the blind, Dr. Armitage, Mr. H. J. Wilson, of the Gardner Trust, and the late Sir Francis Campbell of the Royal Normal College. To each of them he owed much in the shape of ready advice and help in his own exertions for the benefit of his fellow blind. In 1886 a chronic disorder (the result of severe sea-sickness on his voyage from Australia) compelled his retirement from business, and he spent the rest of his life at Harrogate, Ruswarp, near Whitby, and Saffron Walden. Wherever he lived he made it his first duty to inform himself about the welfare of the local blind, to ensure education and training for the young, employment for the able-bodied, and pensions and help for the infirm and aged. At Harrogate he served on the Committee of the Leeds Institution, and at Whitby he kept in close touch with the Yorkshire School for the Blind, under those able Superintendents, Mr. Anthony Buckle, and later Mr. A. B. Norwood.

In 1896 he founded at Whitby, for the old pupils of the Yorkshire School, a basket-workshop and sale room, which still does good and useful work, and before he left the town in 1907 he was able to collect from friends and sympathisers funds to form the "Whitby Trust for the Blind," which grants pensions to the aged blind of the neighbourhood. Since his death his friends have added sufficient capital to the fund to provide two additional "Alfred Hirst Memorial Pensions." He always valued the advantages of wise publicity, and made it his business, wherever he lived, to supply the local press with frequent articles on blind affairs. When in 1890 the blind world sustained an irreparable

loss in the death of Dr. Armitage he published an account of his life and work, and took part in the establishment of the Armitage Memorial Fund to supply Braille books at a cheap price. In 1897 he wrote for the *Sunday Magazine* "My Dark World," the story of his blindness, which was re-published as a pamphlet by the British and Foreign Blind Association, and has brought comfort and encouragement to many of his fellow-sufferers. Yet amidst all this activity he found time for much besides. For instance, at Harrogate he regularly taught English literature and the elements of French to a young blind piano-tuner, and years later he read in the same way with a sighted friend who was anxious to obtain a degree. He did not merely take an intense interest in the education of his children, but actually shared in it, reading with them their appointed books and eager to hear all the details of their work. In politics and social reform he took the keenest interest; temperance and housing were matters which he often pressed upon the notice of local authorities. He was, too, a keen critic of those institutions and societies (more numerous when he began his work than now) which looked on the blind rather as the means of obtaining subscriptions than as self-respecting individuals to be taught and trained.

Indeed, Alfred Hirst touched life at many points, and his wide interests gave an unfailing zest to his conversation. He was a good talker and a good listener, as his many friends experienced on the long country walks which were his delight when his health permitted. It was, perhaps, due to his pleasure in conversation that he never, like some blind men, walked in the streets alone, although he went freely about house and garden and never met with an accident. After years of failing health, although of unfailing activity, he died on August 29th, 1913. The epitaph on his grave at Saffron Walden summarises his life:

"Undaunted by blindness and pain
he encouraged his fellow-sufferers by his example,
and helped others to help themselves,
Equally devoted to politics, letters, and philanthropy,
he was a fearless champion of the poor,
and ever sought by voice and pen
to promote peace and good will among the nations."



A Chance for the Blind.

A PATHETIC interest attaches to the announcement of the coming election to the Fawcett Memorial Scholarship, which will be held in July next. As the name implies, this Scholarship was founded under the trusteeship of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers in memory of the blind Postmaster-General, Mr. Henry Fawcett, and is only open to those who have so far lost their sight as to have to use their fingers for reading. The scholarship, which is worth £50 per annum, is tenable for four years at any of the Universities of the United Kingdom, including women's colleges at such Universities. Candidates must be between the ages of seventeen and twenty-three at the time of election. Further details will be supplied by the Clerk to the Clothworkers' Company, Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, E.C.

The After-Care of the Blinded Soldier.

A WONDERFUL RECORD.

The following letter has appeared in the Press recently:—

SIR,—Just a year ago the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee started to look after the men who have lost their sight in the war. We who have been privileged to help them to reconstruct their lives are profoundly gratified at the success which has attended the effort. We naturally looked for happy and useful results, but we scarcely dared to hope for so abundant a measure of success as has been attained.

Sympathetic folk foretold that the gathering together of a large number of men suddenly deprived of sight in the prime of their youth and strength would mean the creation of a centre where gloom, dejection, and unspeakable sadness would reign supreme. These prophecies have, I am happy to say, been entirely falsified. The thing which invariably strikes the visitor as being most noticeable about the men at St. Dunstan's is their cheeriness, their brightness, and their apparent disregard of the fact that they are anything but normal. The "handicap spirit," as it may be called, pervades the class rooms and workshops. That horrible word "affliction," and all the gloomy ideas to which it gives rise, are forbidden entry. Those of us at St. Dunstan's who differ from the vast majority of our fellow-creatures in a very important respect do not allow the difference to impress itself upon our minds as anything but a handicap—serious, it is true, but still to a very large extent one which can be overcome, and the overcoming of which means the exercise of qualities dear to the sport-loving Briton.

Men at St. Dunstan's have learnt the difficult art of reading with the finger-tips in a fortnight. Men who have never seen a typewriter, and never will see one, have learnt to use it accurately and at a fair rate of speed in the same incredibly short space of time. These, naturally, are exceptional cases, but as a general rule Braille reading and typewriting are acquired with remarkable rapidity.

Men have gone out into the world, after a few months' tuition, able to run a little poultry farm with a knowledge and thoroughness nothing short of amazing to folk who, quite naturally, look upon this profitable branch of industry as altogether beyond the capabilities of a blind man. Others are building up nice little businesses as cobblers, giving every satisfaction to their customers, and earning amounts equal to their weekly pensions.

"If," wrote the other day a well-known worker among the blind in the North of England, "Private ——— is a fair sample of your St. Dunstan's men, I must warmly congratulate you. He came to see me this morning, looking a different man from the crushed and sad fellow I had seen before he went. He looked in robust health, and was full of smiles and happiness. He and his wife and children are

comfortably off with his pension and the earnings from the mats and bags that he makes at home, and at present he has more orders than he can fill."

I am proud to say Private ——— is a fair sample of St. Dunstan's output, and a number of others who learnt the trade of mat-making are doing as well as he is. Several basket-makers are earning good wages, one who has been so fortunate as to obtain special work showing at present earnings which reach as high as £2 a week. Makers of picture-frames, trays, and other articles requiring an expert knowledge of joinery find their time fully and profitably occupied.

*No masseurs have yet completed their training, but several will pass the stiff examinations which lay before them in the course of the next few weeks, and they have been promised well-paid posts at military hospitals. Other men are rapidly qualifying as expert shorthand-writers by the Braille system, as telephone operators, and as divers.

The important work of devising a satisfactory scheme of after-care for the men who are settled at their various occupations is proceeding satisfactorily. Arrangements have to be made for supervising their work, which would otherwise tend to deteriorate, for providing their raw material, for marketing their goods, and for securing a continuity of well-paid employment for those who have been trained in such occupations as massage and boot-repairing.

A large permanent fund will be needed if this work, which has been entrusted to a special department of The National Institute for the Blind, is to prove permanently useful. I am glad to say that we have received lately many intimations of the intention to bequeath legacies for this purpose, and a great number of efforts have been made all over the country to augment the fund by bazaars and entertainments of all kinds.

The plea of the blinded soldier always proves most potent, and highly satisfactory results have followed these efforts. You could not, I fear, permit me space in which to chronicle even a fraction of them, but I may be, perhaps allowed to mention that a few young ladies of a small northern town raised £9000 by a bazaar. A firm who wished to perpetuate the memory of a valued employee killed at the front sent £100, which will be permanently recorded on a tablet in the hall of The National Institute for the Blind, and similar memorial sums have been sent by relatives of fallen soldiers.

May I ask all who feel touched by this brief record of splendid determination and resolution to overcome a terrible disability to show their appreciation by helping us?

The names of two of our men appeared in the recent list of those who had distinguished themselves at the front. In my opinion they all deserve recognition for their two-fold bravery—the courage which first carried them into the firing line and that which now spurs them on to silent victory against apparently overwhelming odds.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) C. ARTHUR PEARSON,

Chairman, Blinded Soldiers' and
Sailors' Care Committee.

*Since this was written six men have passed in Part I. of the Examination.
—[Ed. *The Braille Review*.]

Royal Autographs.

THE KING'S SECOND 1,000 PARTY OF HEROES.

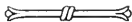
THE King and Queen entertained another party of about 1,000 wounded soldiers and sailors to tea and an entertainment in the Riding School at Buckingham Palace on the 22nd of March. Among the guests were eight blinded officers and fifty men from St. Dunstan's, who came in headed by a nurse, the men following in single file, each with a hand on the shoulder of the man in front of him.

The King (wearing the uniform of an admiral) and the Queen during the tea, passing by every table, talked with many of the men, asked how they were progressing and listened to their stories of battle. The King seemed greatly interested in the conversation of the sailors, and the blinded soldiers received the special attention of their Majesties.

Nearly all the members of the Royal Family were there, including Princess Mary and Princess Victoria, who were absent on the previous day, and Queen Amélie, in her nurse's cap, was looking after patients from her own hospital at Wandsworth. Mr. Hughes, Premier of Australia, and Mrs. Hughes, and Sir Sam Hughes, Canadian Minister of Defence, were also present.

After tea many of the royalties gave their autographs to the men. Queen Alexandra, at the head of one of the tables, wrote her name on every invitation card sent to her, Princess Mary was surrounded by men, and there was quite a queue waiting for Princess Victoria's signature.

Many of those who were helping on Tuesday were again present, as well as Lady Salisbury, Lady Penrhyn, Lady Isobel Gathorne-Hardy, Lady Evelyn Farquhar, Lady St. Oswald, Lady Amphilhill, and Sir John and Lady Lister-Kaye.



Work in the Northern Counties.

THE AFTER-CARE OF THE BLIND.

"AFTER-CARE" of the blind in the six northern counties was the principal subject discussed at the annual meeting of the North of England Union of Institutions and Agencies for the Blind, held recently at York, the Lord Mayor (Alderman Todd) presiding.

Miss Sadgrove, the organising secretary, in her report stated that out of 9,000 blind in the six northern counties barely 5,000 were under the care of institutions and agencies, and each year 200 young people left the training schools fully equipped for work, and unless some one found interest and employment for them they were deprived of hope. The Northern Counties Joint Poor Law Committee, at Prudhoe Colony for the feeble minded, had assured her that the case of the blind feeble minded would receive every consideration as soon as the Committee were able to proceed with their scheme for new buildings at present suspended on account of the war.

Mr. H. V. Scott, the hon. treasurer, presented the statement of accounts, which showed a sum of £55 from donations and grants, which, together with other sources of income, left a balance in hand of £9 9s. 6d.

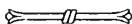
The report and balance-sheet were adopted.

Mr. H. Stainsby, from The National Institute for the Blind, gave an account of the work at the institution and at St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded soldiers. He said that the Blind Soldiers and Sailors After-Care Committee had given their word that these men should not be lost sight of after the war. They would look after them all their lives, when perchance the public had forgotten their gallant deeds and misfortunes. He contended that the workhouse was no place for a blind person, and rejoiced that Manchester and Bradford had led the van by taking them out of the workhouse and putting them in suitable and real homes. (Applause.)



Library for the Blind.

THE National Library for the Blind, which has benefited to the extent of £12,000 by a gift from the Carnegie Trustees, is about to move from Queen's Road, Bayswater, to a more commodious building in Tufton Street, Westminster. This beneficent institution has of recent years greatly extended its usefulness, and with the acquisition of more adequate premises it is safe to predict a considerable expansion of the service it is performing for that large section of the public afflicted by blindness.



A Blind Soldier Bridegroom.

AT St. Saviour's Church, Croydon, on February 28th, the wedding took place of Miss F. Pentecost, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pentecost, of St. Saviour's Road, and Mr. F. Fleetwood, of Norwood, who has lately been discharged from the Army, having unfortunately been blinded whilst on active service at the Dardanelles. He served with the 4th Worcester Regiment, and took part in the famous landing at Cape Helles on April 25th, 1915. Up to a recent date he had been in St. Dunstan's College, Regent's Park, where those similarly afflicted are cared for.

The Vicar (Rev. G. H. Kempe) and the Rev. H. J. Freeman officiated. The bride was given away by Mr. Stephen Pentecost, her brother, and the best man was Mr. Youe, an orderly from St. Dunstan's. The bride's father was prevented from attending by illness.

The bride looked very sweet and dainty in a simple dove grey dress, with veil and spray of orange blossom. She was attended by her little niece, Miss Freda Lewin, as bridesmaid, who looked very pretty in pink and white, and Master Rex Lewin, a manly little fellow of five, in a blue sailor suit, as page.

A few hours later the bride and bridegroom left for Kent, where they intend to stay for a few weeks. Their final destination is a poultry farm near Wokingham, Berkshire, where, thanks to training received, they hope to do well. They received many handsome wedding gifts.

The bride, who is well known and much respected in St. Saviour's parish, goes to her new life with the heartfelt wishes of her many friends for her future happiness and welfare.

Scottish Blinded Soldiers.

SUGGESTED SEPARATE ESTABLISHMENT.

AN endeavour has been made to arrange for the separate treatment of Scottish soldiers blinded in the war.

The movement has emanated from the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum, the authorities of which have attempted to evoke sympathy in the idea of Scotland making itself responsible for the welfare of her blinded soldiers.

On March 6th the Lord Provost of Edinburgh convened a meeting at which the project was advocated by various speakers, the principal of whom was Dr. Burns, the Chairman of the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum, who, in the course of his speech said that the blinded men had no choice as to training-ground, and that as regards criticisms against the proposal to start a home in Edinburgh the voice of the soldier himself had not been heard.

A report of this meeting appeared in the Edinburgh papers on March 7th, and the succeeding issue of the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* contained the following letter:—

“HOME FOR BLIND SOLDIERS.

“A SCOTTISH SOLDIER'S TESTIMONY.

“To the Editor,

“As a Scottish patient from St. Dunstan's at present on holiday in Edinburgh, perhaps I may be allowed to express an opinion on the controversy raised by those interested in the establishment of a training hostel in this city. The impression one would gather from the speeches made and correspondence on the subject is that the Scottish blinded soldiers are pining to come to Edinburgh.

“Sir Andrew M'Donald seems to doubt whether their porridge will taste as good in London as in Edinburgh. I can assure him it does. The good matron of St. Dunstan's (a lady from Aberdeen) and the assistant matron (a Glasgow lady) see to that.

“The attitude of the promoters of the Edinburgh hostel seems to be not ‘Let us have a Blinded Soldiers' Home in Scotland,’ but ‘Let us have a Blinded Soldiers' Home in Edinburgh.’ They seem to forget that all Scottish soldiers are not Edinburgh men, and that a Glasgow or a Dundee soldier would feel as much at home in Regent's Park as in Blacket Avenue. I have yet to learn that the Glaswegian, for example, is so enamoured of Edinburgh and its east winds (I was almost going to say its cable cars) that he would prefer it to London if offered the choice of residence in either.

“After all, London is but little less Scottish than Edinburgh, and it need not be feared that those of us in St. Dunstan's who come from this side of the Border are like strangers in a foreign land.

“An Edinburgh friend of mine in London kept me acquainted with the correspondence in the *Dispatch* concerning the Rev. Dr. Burns's scheme, and being interested in the matter, I inquired of some of my compatriots among the patients at the Regent's Park Hostel how they would like to leave St. Dunstan's and come to an Edinburgh hostel, and the reply of each was to the effect, ‘When

Dr. Burns can provide us with as good a home as we have in St. Dunstan's we can talk of it. Meanwhile we are quite satisfied where we are.'

"Those of us who know the limited capacities of Newington mansion houses as compared with St. Dunstan's realise how badly handicapped the promoters of the Edinburgh hostel scheme will be in their endeavours to provide the means of instruction and recreation that St. Dunstan's patients have become accustomed to. One of the supporters of the Edinburgh scheme, comparing the situation of Newington House with St. Dunstan's, mentioned the King's Park as a suitable and convenient recreation ground. Surely, he could not have been serious. Undoubtedly the King's Park is a fine pleasure ground for people in full possession of all their faculties, but no one would recommend it as a playground for blind men.

"We Scottish soldiers in St. Dunstan's cannot forget that Mr. C. A. Pearson ferreted us out of various hospitals throughout the country and immediately interested himself in our welfare before the Edinburgh critics ever gave a thought to the existence of blind soldiers. Now that St. Dunstan's has justified its existence, surely it would be better to support it rather than set up what must be, for some time at least, an experimental institution.

"It does not follow that by being trained in St. Dunstan's a Scotsman becomes expatriated or necessarily loses touch with his friends. None of us have any desire to end our lives in an institution. We have a future before us as other men have and St. Dunstan's trains us to make the best use of our lives. After we have learned our means of livelihood in St. Dunstan's (the time spent there may be from six months to twelve according to the course of training) the world is open to us. Some of us will be glad to get back to Scotland among our friends there, but meanwhile does it really matter whether our training is obtained in Edinburgh or or London, so long as we obtain the training that will fit us to fight the battle of life?

D. M. MACLEAN,
ex-Private 1st Royal Scots."

This letter was read to the other blinded Scottish soldiers at St. Dunstan's, with the result that the following communication signed by them appeared in the Scottish Press:—

"To the Editor,

"Sir,

"We, the undersigned, are the Scottish blinded soldiers who are at present inmates of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel, St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, London.

"We have had read to us the letter written to the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* by D. M. MacLean, one of our number who is at present away on holiday, and we wish you to let us tell your readers that we entirely agree with what he says in that letter.

"We are well looked after and happy at St. Dunstan's. We know that every care and trouble is taken in the matter of giving us the best possible facilities for learning all that blinded men should

learn to enable them to keep in touch with the world ; and we know that St. Dunstan's offers us the opportunity of learning thoroughly a greater variety of occupations than can be learnt at any blind institution in the Kingdom.

"We are grateful to friends in Edinburgh for their interest in us, but we do not think they are going the right way to be helpful to us in promoting an attempt to set up a small separate establishment where we should be separated from our soldier pals here, and where, with the best will in the world, the smallness of our numbers would make it impossible to instruct, interest and amuse us so well as is the case at St. Dunstan's.

"It is very kind of the authorities of the Edinburgh Blind Asylum to offer us the use of their establishment, but we do not wish to enter that or any other institution for the blind.

"We believe that St. Dunstan's—which is not in the ordinary sense an institution for the blind, but a special place especially devised for our needs and happiness—in every way a better place for us.

"We think that if our friends in Scotland wish to show their interest in us they cannot do this in a better way than by sending contributions to the funds of St. Dunstan's where we are so happy and well cared for.

"Four other Scottish blinded soldiers are still in hospital, or are recuperating at St. Dunstan's annexes at Brighton or Torquay. We feel sure that they will agree with the above.—Yours truly,

R. MIDDLEMISS (Sergt.-Maj. 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers).

W. CONLON (Private, 9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

G. C. SHIELDS (Sergt., 10th Original Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).

W. WATT (Sergt., 6th Cameron Highlanders).

W. WADDELL (Private, 1st Scots Guards).

W. EDMOND (Private, 1st Royal Scots).

A. KITSON (Corporal, 1st Scottish Rifles).

DAVID GRAY (Private, 10th Black Watch).

N. McDONALD (Private, 2nd Gordon Highlanders).

J. OWENS (Private, 1st Highland Light Infantry).

G. BROWN (Private, 1st Cameron Highlanders).

Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel,

St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, N.W.

13th March, 1916."



Blind Students' Successes.

A BLIND student, Mr. Percy Linney Way, F.R.C.O., headed the pass-list at the massage examination recently held by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseurs. Five blind students, one a surgeon, who were trained at The National Institute for the Blind, passed the whole examination. Of the 201 candidates entering six gained distinction and 131 passed. Six soldiers who have been blinded in the war passed in Part I. (Anatomy and Physiology).

Blind students are examined in exactly the same way as sighted students, except that in the written parts of the examination they use a typewriter or have an amanuensis.

Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility for the views of his correspondents.]

Re BRITISH BRAILLE.

SIR,—I am very pleased to see so many taking up the question of improving the Braille system. For some time past I have felt that we have been taking too much advantage of the use of contractions. Hitherto my position has prevented me from interfering in the matter; but now that we are brought face to face with a system which claims to be better than our own, it seems to me that the time is ripe for some beneficial changes to be made. My first aim is to make Braille so perfect that it can be read quite fluently, without any hesitation, and without losing much space. Here I should like to say that I do not advocate introducing any of the Grade III contractions, but let each system be improved but kept quite distinct. The changes I propose are merely modifications of the rules, which will not in any way interfere with the work already done, but will render new books more easy to read. Briefly they are as follows:—

Rule 2. “Ea” should only be used when it forms one sound, and should not overlap syllables. Ex.: *Reap*, *reappear*, *Reason*, *reassemble*.

Rule 4. Double letters should never be used before an apostrophe. Ex.: *St. Ogg’s*; *Odd’s my life*.

Rule 5. *Bled* (bled) or *bles* (bles) looks very strange at the beginning of a line. Rule 8 is very misleading. In the first half it sanctions the use of the apostrophe after a lower sign, but the second half forbids its use.

Rule 10. I think initial contractions should only be used phonetically, and should never overlap syllables. Ex.: *Sever* severe, *adhere* adherent. *Smother*, not *smother*; *Colonel*, not *Colonel*; *Pioneer*, not *pioneer*; *Phonetic*, not *phonetic*; *Heresy*, not *beresy*; *Heretic*, not *beretic*; *Partake*, not *partake*; *Erroneous*, not *erroneous*; *Partial*, not *partial*; *Somerset*, not *Somerset*; *Handsomere*, *handsomest*, not *Handsomere*, *handsomest*.

Ong should not overlap syllables. Ex.: *Incongruous*, not *incongruous*; *Mongrel*, not *mongrel*; *Spongy*, not *spongy*.

Rule 14. Caution, 2 of this rule should be more strictly adhered to, as shown above in Rule 10.

Rule 17. This rule wants more closely defining. What is the limit to familiar proper names?

The plan lately adopted has been to spell all proper names in full at least once in every volume, so as to get the correct spelling. I think names of ships, names of inns, and titles of books should be italicised, in order to distinguish them from ordinary words.

Appendix.—When writing foreign phrases I think the letter-sign should be used like the italic dot—that is, used singly before one, two, or three words and doubled in a long phrase and closed with a single. By adopting this method it would make it quite clear that the words were out of the ordinary, and the accented letters would determine whether they were French, German, Greek, etc.

With regard to lower signs, I do not see why lower signs, when forming parts of words, should not be preceded or followed by more than one composition sign. Ex.: "*Because* it is written," etc. I do not see why the contractions for "be," "con," "dis," and "com" should not be used as the second syllable of a word, provided they are preceded by another lower sign; as in such words as "disbelieve," "inconsiderable," "indisposition," "incompatible."

I notice that many of our correspondents advocate the adoption of certain Grade III contractions, and one even goes so far as to say that every Braille sign should be represented in all the columns. This means that the letters of the alphabet should be represented eight times, which would give 208 characters; and the remaining 30 nine times each, which would give 270 more. This brings the total to 478 characters, exclusive of abbreviated words. It seems to me that the sole question to settle is this: Is Grade II to be a moderately contracted system, which may be easily learned and fluently read by the vast majority of readers, or is it to be a shorthand system, which only the few could or would master?

I should be very glad to see this matter taken up by the British Braille Committee, and so let the question be settled once for all.—Yours, etc., J. A. FORD.

* * * *

SIR,—British Braille, by reason of its fidelity to Universal Braille, occupies an unassailable position. Standard Dot, in virtue of its advocacy of the continuous base, and because of the needless alterations it includes, is entirely unwelcome. Those who recall the absurdities of the Authorised Braille of some years ago, and who assented to the reforms of the Revised Braille Committee, should combine to oppose the retrograde suggestions put forward by Mr. Ford, and insistently press for a further revision, especially of rules giving the use of contractions and methods of word-divisions. Furthermore, Grade II should be improved by the addition of a few, much-needed contractions and abbreviations; for, in some respects, it is lamentably deficient. That anyone should be found to propose a return to the old absurdity about "ch," "sh," "th" is truly amazing. Readers of foreign languages, or students in mathematics or music, are agreed in denying the existence of any difficulty whatsoever. While citing a few dearly-loved instances—the "few" at least being correct—partial, Mr. Ford omits to treat of the glaring misuse of the sign "ea," apparent in current publications. It ought to be unthinkable that any publishing-house could sanction the use of this sign in such words as "re-animate," "re-adjust," but such is a fact.

Guidance is much needed, apparently, in the matter of unit-division; this fault is almost peculiar to Braille in the frequency with which it occurs. The rule about proper names requires re-statement: only the most unusual of these should ever be written out in full. The hints embodied in Mr. Merriek's lengthy and ill-digested paper should rather (in a succinct form) have been embodied in the regulations supplied to intending candidates, for whom only they are of immediate moment.—Yours faithfully, A REFORMER.

DEAR SIR,—Standard Dot, or more correctly, Standard Braille, stands condemned, not so much by those who have thought fit to eulogise on its various imperfections as by the fact that those of our younger generation have not considered it of sufficient merit to warrant their criticism.

The defence of British Braille, as undertaken by Mr. Ford, is lamentably weak, and his suggestions excessively trivial. For instance, it is almost inconceivable why he should object to the contraction for “sh” at the beginning of a word when followed by either of the vowels e a or i, for it would be equally as absurd to object to the contraction for ing when it follows a lower sign, as in the word Evening. With regard to the words *Partake*, *Smother*, etc., surely no one with but the sense of the proverbial “farthing candle” would dream, unless compelled, of writing them thus: *Partake*, *Smother*, etc. In the one case of the word *Partial*, however, I certainly think such contraction is justified, seeing that the root of the word remains undisturbed.

In my humble endeavour to suggest improvements in Grade II, I must say that the preservation of the beauty of our language should be of primary consideration, and not its corruption by unintelligible combinations of contractions, and distasteful and illegible divisions of words.

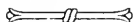
The sign for “ea” should not be used where “e” is the final letter of a prefix, thus: Reanimate, not *Reanimate*; Preamble, not *preamble*.

The contraction for “ing” should only be used phonetically, thus: *String*, *Stringent*; *Sing*, *Singe*.

The signs for “to,” “into,” and “by” should be allowed to precede the numeral sign, thus: From 40 *to* 50 years; increased *by* 4 per cent.

Italics and Dash should not count as lower signs, thus: . . *To* consider. Note.—*To* consider.

Finally, as is the case with “u” and “w,” the whole of the letters of the alphabet should be prefixed by Dots 4, 2-4, and 2-4-6 to form compound signs. I may be accused of introducing a multiplicity of contractions somewhat approaching shorthand; not so. What I do maintain is—and I hope will remove any erroneous impressions—that either all, or none, of the letters should be similarly treated, and thus aid in the construction of a “perfect system” to defy the challenge of such newly-invented “fighting machines” as Standard Dot.—Yours, etc.,
QUOD TUUM TENE.



Prize Competition.

MISS SMITH, of Holmwood, Weston-super-Mare, offers a prize of 10s. for the greatest number of words typed in a minute, without a mistake, by a totally blind typist. The time to be accurately kept by a sighted friend. Competitions to be sent in to Miss Smith between the 2nd and 4th of May, and if two or more have the same number of words, the letters will be counted, and if there is more than one successful competitor the money will be equally divided. The name of the winner and the number of words will be announced in *Progress*.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE MARCH NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—The British Empire's Financial Task, from *The Round Table*—In and Out of Constantinople, by Mrs. Alan Lethbridge—The Weasel, by Frances Pitt, from *The National Review*—The Russian Soldier as a Patient.

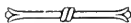
Progress.—Editorial—Matters of the Moment—Biographies of the Blind: The Rev. William Hill-Murray—The Air Kinema—The Visions at Mons—Friends in Council—Our French Page—Baulking the Falcon—Grave and Gay—Question Box—One-Book Authors—The Earth's Sphericity—St. Valentine's Day—How to take Care of the Sick at Home—Crochet—Advertisements—Supplement: "The Lady in Pink," a Complete Story, by Nemo.

Comrades.—Timothy's Shoes, Part VII. and VIII., "The Children's Party" and "The Snow Storm," by J. H. Ewing—To a Thrush, by G. F. Bradby—A Letter from London, by Mabel Smith—If You Please, by Marian Douglas (Grade I.)

School Magazine.—The Golden Touch, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*to be continued*)—Torpedo Boats at Work, from *Chambers's Journal*—Monthly Almanack—How Rilles are Tested—The Voyage of the "Valiant," a Serial Story from "The Scout," by E. Le Breton Martin. Chapters I. and II.

Braille Musical Magazine.—Musical News Comments, from *Musical News*—Our Tuner's Column—Mr. A. C. Stericker—Correspondence—The General Question Box—Our No. 11 Competition Series—Analysis of Beethoven's Sonatas, Sonatas No. 3—Royal College of Organists, Inset: Organ "Fantasie," by C. Saint-Saens; Song, "Rose Buds," by L. Arditi; Violin and Piano, "Serenata," by A. Nolek.

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture on the Causation and Treatment of Flat Feet, by W. H. Trethowan, F.R.C.S.—Memorial Service to Florence Nightingale—Massage in Maternity Work, by Miss L. M. Robinson—Ling Holiday Course—Official Notices.



The Barclay Workshop for Blind Women.

THE Barclay Workshop for Blind Women at 233, Edgware Road, is a place well worth a visit. Here are hand-loom weavers who manufacture most charming dress materials of all kinds of colour—tweeds, serges, linens, etc. This workshop is somewhat overlooked in these days of multitudinous appeals. Money is not wanted but orders, which would be forthcoming in larger quantities if only the excellent work done by these blind women was better known. If you cannot pay a visit, write to the Superintendent for patterns.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

The National Institute for the Blind have For Sale a number of **Goat Skin Rugs** made by a blind man. They are beautifully made and are in a variety of patterns, each measuring 69 in. by 36 in., the price being Grey Rugs, 11s.; and Black Rugs, 11s. 6d. each.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

MAY. 1916.

No. 5.

Editorial.

SYMPATHETIC appreciation of the work that Mr. C. Arthur Pearson has done and is doing for those who, like himself, are handicapped by loss of sight was given in the *Manchester Guardian* for April 12th, and the *Leicester Daily Post* for April 13th. We feel that both extracts are worth giving in full :—

“THE TRAINING OF THE BLIND.

“Mr. C. A. Pearson's special appeal to Lancashire on behalf of the blind soldiers who are being trained to earn a livelihood at St. Dunstan's Hostel is one which deserves a most generous response. Under an ideal system the State would be prepared to take over the entire cost of training these men who have made so heavy a sacrifice on its behalf; indeed, it may be remembered that just before the war we had gone so far as to recognise, in a Parliamentary resolution, the truth that the State, and not the charitable enterprise of individuals, should properly be responsible for the training and care of the 32,000 blind people who then formed part of the United Kingdom's population. The arrival of the war has added to this total many cases of ex-soldiers, blinded on active service, whose right to be put in a position to earn a living for themselves is stronger than ever, and the same cause has simultaneously prevented us from getting very much further with the aspirations expressed by the House of Commons. Private benevolence and gratitude, which have been so admirably appealed to by the indefatigable Mr. Pearson, must, therefore, still act for the State, and in the case of the ex-soldiers at St. Dunstan's the individual opportunity to help may be put as high as a duty. There is a breadth and foresight about Mr. Pearson's effort—which, if it is sufficiently well supported, will be linked up with the training of civilian blind—that supplies an additional reason for giving at once and giving generously.”

“‘A BLIND LEADER OF THE BLIND.’

“As a description of men who, lacking knowledge and capacity, aspire to be leaders of others, this term is one of scorn; as applied to Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, it has given him a fame that will outlive anything he could have achieved in literature, or the commerce of literature, had his sight been preserved. Through the disability which came to him at an age when most men of talent and enterprise are consolidating their position, Mr. Pearson developed a wonderful understanding of and sympathy for those similarly afflicted, and he is now the

honoured President of The National Institute for the Blind and the founder of St. Dunstan's, the 'Palace of Hope' where soldiers, who have lost their sight in their country's service, are being taught trades. The annual meeting of the Leicester Institution for the Blind yesterday derived exceptional interest from Mr. Pearson's presence, and as a piece of autobiography his address was a key to the lines on which we should work to help the blind. Relation of his own experience, which 'led him to believe that some people thought a person, on becoming blind also lost the ability to stand upright,' had more than a literal meaning, which was developed when he went on to say that in his view the most admirable qualification of the blind was 'the courage and determination to overcome their handicap.' The Leicester Institution, like the National one and St. Dunstan's, does not sap blind people's independence; the object of all three is to teach the blind to help themselves, and, if the time ever comes when fuller provision for these afflicted ones has to be made through the State, it should be on these lines, with provision for old age and for those who, through other physical infirmity, are unable to follow an occupation."



Fawcett as a Fisherman.

IN her delightful life of the late Henry Fawcett, "A Beacon for the Blind,"* Winifred Holt has some references to his well-known love of angling:—

"But for Fawcett, who had been trained from childhood as a fisherman, the crowning joy of all sports was a good fishing expedition. Very soon after the accident he took up his fishing again. He remembered his native stream well, and to the end of his life (for twenty-six years) he was always eager to run down to Salisbury to fish. His letters to his father abound in references to angling parties, past and to come. He gave directions about his fishing boots (they were so frequently in use that they must have had a simple number in his catalogue of clothes), and instructions to secure some expert angler to accompany him, or framed some subtle tactics for waylaying and ensnaring some particularly elusive aquatic prey, who had, perhaps, been known to his neighbours, but had remained uncaught by them.

"Many friends urged him to try their waters for trout, pike, salmon, jack-fishing, and he enjoyed their hospitality greatly. His father, who was devoted to the sport, in which he excelled even after his ninetieth year, was very fond of accompanying him. Fawcett's early practice enabled him to throw a fly with great accuracy. He was fond of combining his amusements, and would wade in the stream while one of his great friends often went with him, though walking on the bank so as not to throw his shadow on the water, but so that he could talk to his heart's content without disturbing the angler. Fawcett was wont to say that trout hear very badly, and are not distracted by political

* "A Beacon for the Blind: Being a Life of Henry Fawcett, the Blind Postmaster-General." By Winifred Holt.

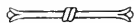
economy. So fond was Fawcett of his favourite subject that his first secretary records how in moments snatched between fishing he would accompany Fawcett to a tea-house, where he would read to him Mill's 'Political Economy.'

"Those who accompanied him fishing are agreed that he was a much better fisherman than sighted people generally are. This may have been due to his extraordinary patience, or to his zeal in learning from the experts with whom he associated.

"A Salisbury friend who often fished with him said: 'He would make his way through anything. He often walked along the river's edge fishing, and he never fell in. One day he was fishing and caught his line in a tree overhead. He exclaimed to his secretary, who came up, "Can't you see it?" Then with added impatience, "See, it's up there; I can see it."'

"With his characteristic pluck he did not hesitate to wade in the stream or to cross a narrow plank. He enjoyed all the rough incidents in fishing, even bumping about in a donkey-cart full of fish, and he was particularly glad to meet the country folk and have a chat with them.

"A Trinity Hall contemporary tells of going to stay with a friend in the country, and on his arrival finding no one at home; but being told by the butler that Mr. Fawcett had arrived and was fishing in the neighbourhood, the new guest went in search. After a short walk in the meadows he was surprised to see in the neighbourhood of a brook a large group of cows standing in contemplation about some central object which he could not make out. A nearer view revealed Fawcett seated in the charmed circle, the cynosure of all the bovine eyes! In his hand he held a fishing-rod, the line being firmly caught above his head to the branch of a tree. The anxious and puzzled observer asked what was the matter, to which Fawcett answered unconcernedly: 'Oh, I'm all right, thanks! I'm very glad to see you.' On further inquiry about his hypnotised audience of cows, he explained: 'Oh, it was the boy's lunch-time, so I sent him off to get it. My fish-hook got caught in the tree, and these cows just happened to come round.' As always he was having an idyllic time, and was amused by his friend's perplexity."



MESSRS. JARROLD AND SON have paid nearly £1,000 to Mr. C. Arthur Pearson's fund in aid of the Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, being the first proceeds of *The Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Gift Book*, which was published for the benefit of this very deserving cause. Messrs. Jarrold hope considerably to supplement this sum with the help of the booksellers and the public. Copies of the artistic and interesting volume are still to be obtained, and it will at all times make a pleasing present. It is a book always welcome at hospitals where our brave fighting men are being cared for. The cause of the blinded soldier and sailor is now more urgent than it was when the *Gift Book* was first published. When the public realise this, they need only to be told that every copy sold aids directly the blinded heroes, so splendidly cared for by Mr. Pearson, for the remaining copies to be quickly disposed of.

“Sight” for the Blind.

IN the columns of a well-known London daily there has appeared within the last few days an article of considerable length giving a rather elaborate account of certain experiments which seemed to promise the production of an apparatus of use as a “substitute for sight.” Every one knows that the sun may be felt as well as seen, and probably not a few schoolboys have experienced the torment of being subjected to the effects of the focussing of a “burning-glass” upon their skins. Yet this is made the basis of a lengthy disquisition on a substitute for sight. It is proposed with every appearance of seriousness that a burning-glass should be placed in such a relation to the breast of the blind subject that the light focussed by the lens should fall accurately upon the skin: means would be taken by the interposition of screens to prevent burning, and by a process of training the subject would learn to see by means of the feel of the warm picture on his chest. The educational process would be carried out by placing a series of stencils on the chest which would leave slits, circles, and later on letters and signs exposed to the heat rays, and the sense of heat perception would be increased by its cultivation. All this sounds very much like the yarn that a schoolboy might write a very long way after Jules Verne, and one would have thought that a newspaper of importance would have secured the criticism of some physiologist before publishing such a rigmarole. But we notice that the article is under the heading “From German Sources,” and the intention of the publication may be playful rather than serious. The excerpt begins “An article on optics of more than merely technical interest appears in the *Deutsche optische Wochenschrift*, and is quoted at considerable length by the *Tägliche Rundschau*. The writer is Professor L. Zehender, the Berlin eye specialist, who records an experiment which appears to have given rise to considerable discussion in German scientific circles.” If this be a fair sample of the much vaunted *Ersatz*, the German palate that is satiated by new substitution, products must be truly in a bad way.

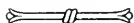
The publication in a popular newspaper of this so-called “substitute for sight” may not do any particular harm, because, as has been said, it is so crude that the youngest would be able to understand how much and how little advantage the blind may expect to draw from it. Nor perhaps did any great harm come from the wide publication a few years ago of a plan for transmuting sight into sound out of which the blind were bidden to hope that they were one day to hear what others saw. It was based on a well-known scientific fact, but its practical application on even the simplest scale for the benefit of the blind presented insuperable difficulties, and even its promoters did not pretend that anything would come of it at present. So here again, for another reason, no great harm was done.

But it is otherwise with some of the schemes which from time to time are published in newspapers without any attempt at criticism. We are quite sure that the directors of these newspapers do not realise the effect such statements produce upon the blind themselves and upon the parents of blind children. Some of the schemes are dangerous to

the man or the child who it is feared is going blind, and others make a cruel call upon the slender purses of the blind. The poor blind are very open to exploitation. Wonder healers and the like suck them dry of their poor earnings. Such an one as these had his "cures" vaunted in a newspaper not many months ago, but the child he "cured" is still blind and in a blind school; yet he has been allowed to trumpet abroad an offer of his services for the cure of soldiers blinded in the war. A few years ago a healer fleeced a maidservant of nearly £15 on the promise to grow her a new eye to fill the place of one she had lost; either he was less cunning than most of his kind or the girl more resolute than ordinary; by exception he got his deserts in a term of imprisonment. In the last few months we have known of two cases of children whose parents, refusing the care of the hospital physician, have resorted to quacks, with the result that these two children are now blind from the grossest effects of interstitial keratitis.

There is another evil, and that is the publication of garbled versions of genuine forms of medical treatment and operation. Recently an unfortunate man, whose sight was nearly lost from progressive disease, came from the other side of the world in search of a cure that he had heard of through an American newspaper. He brought with him a scrap of paper that he handled like a talisman of hope. It was a typical American "wonder paragraph," and the effect of its words, which he knew by heart, was too strong to allow him to depart as he came. He could not be brought to believe that the cure would be for him a danger. He must needs put his hope to the test. When seen again, as he was about to return to his distant home, he had lost his hope and had exchanged the remnant of his sight for two blind and painful eyes!

The Select Committee on Patent Medicines in its report expressed the conviction that "the proprietors of the better class of newspapers . . . would welcome a drastic suppression of suggestive or improper advertisements," but went on to say that this observation did not refer "to the advertisements of swindlers like Macaura, the 'eye quacks,' the 'deaf quacks,' the cancer-curers, the consumptive-curers, the electric belt makers, the curers of rupture without operation, or 'fakirs' generally. As regards these classes, most newspaper proprietors do not regard it as incumbent upon them to test the good faith of secret remedy advertisers any more than of advertisers of other goods, though a few of the leading papers exercise a very severe censorship upon advertisements of this kind also." If the need for such censorship is felt in regard to advertisements, the need must be even greater in regard to the publication of editorial articles.

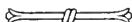


Leading the Blind.

ALMOST every morning a very interesting sight is to be seen on the lake in Regent's Park. It is a number of men, most of whom are blind, while the rest are dressed in work-a-day attire, with grimy hands and faces.

The blind men are the inmates of St. Dunstan's, which nearly everyone knows is the institution where our soldiers and sailors who have lost their sight in the war are being trained in some useful occupation. The others are engine-drivers, who, after being on duty

all night, instead of going home to breakfast and rest, come straight from their work and wait till half-past six, in order to cox the rowing boats on the lake for the blinded heroes at St. Dunstan's. These engine-drivers, unable to don khaki themselves, and knowing how the early morning sculling is enjoyed, are willingly and gratuitously doing their "bit" by helping to make the lot of men who *have* put on khaki and suffered for it a little more bearable.

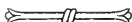


Eye Injuries and Blindness in the German Army.

EYE INJURIES AND DISEASES.—Dr. W. Uthhoff, consulting ophthalmologist to the 6th German Army Corps,* has analysed the statistics of about 600 eye casualties in a reserve hospital to which he was attached as consulting ophthalmologist. The proportion of non-traumatic to traumatic casualties was as 1 to 1.7. The most common of the inflammatory lesions of the cornea was keratitis dendritica—a herpetic condition; it constituted 25 per cent. of all the inflammatory diseases of the cornea, and was attributed to the strain and exhaustion of war. Though these patients remained long under treatment, the ultimate results were usually good; in some cases ordinary treatment was supplemented by superficial cauterisation of the diseased cornea. In few cases was the disease apparently due to traumatism. Ulcus serpens was observed only in about 1 per cent., and the relative rarity of this disease was, no doubt, due to the soldiers being in the prime of life, and free from such complaints at the time of mobilisation. Another disease found to be unexpectedly rare was gonorrhoeal conjunctivitis, only one case of which came under Dr. Uthhoff's care. Yet of other gonorrhoeal complications there was an abundance in the neighbourhood. Trachoma accounted for only 5 per cent. of the 600 cases, although the territory (Russia and Galicia) from which Dr. Uthhoff drew his patients was supposed to be extensively infected with this disease; from the amount of scarring present in most cases it was judged that the condition must have been of old standing. This relative rarity of trachoma was also noted by Dr. Uthhoff's colleagues, and he attributes it largely to the high standard of efficiency in the Army Medical Service. Iritis, which constituted about 8 per cent. of all the non-traumatic diseases of the eye, was due to syphilis in every third case, to rheumatism in every third case, and to unknown factors in the remaining third. Cases of nyctalopia represented about 3 per cent. of the non-traumatic diseases of the eye; they could also be grouped in three equally large classes: nyctalopia due to organic disease of the retina, and hereditary and idiopathic nyctalopia. There were 252 cases of direct injury to the eye, and the sight of one eye was totally lost in 46 per cent. The proportion of total blindness to blindness on one side only was as 1 to 10.

CARE OF BLIND SOLDIERS.—Dr. Uthhoff has dealt with the care and education of blinded soldiers in another article.† He expressed the opinion that the wisest and ultimately the most humane course was to

keep them for a time in skilled hands and in surroundings calculated to stimulate them to build up a new mode of life which would give them occupation and relative financial independence. He thought it probable that the institutions established before the war would be able to cope with the demands of the army by a system of extension if every district undertook the care of its own men. He insisted that it would be folly to squander large sums, voluntarily subscribed, on new palatial residences, when so much more could be done by leaving the matter in the hands of district institutions already familiar with the education of the blind. He also objected strongly to the slipshod management of homes for the blind by amateurs incapable of carrying out a systematic course of education. It was all very well for these philanthropists to pamper blinded soldiers with concerts, lectures, and other festivities, but the time would come, after the war, when enthusiasm for the blind would die out, leaving them dependent on others' efforts for amusement and occupation. Dr. Uthoff considered it inadvisable to educate blinded officers together with their subordinates; and as the pensions for officers were as much as eight times as large as those given to privates, the former were not so dependent on education in an institution as privates. In the case of married privates, the best plan would be for their homes to be near an institution in which they could benefit from systematic teaching while living at home. Dr. Uthoff touched on the subject of the marriage of blinded soldiers by patriotic, tender-hearted women with great sympathy, and he also urged on his audience the need for providing the blind with large Braille libraries.



Leicester Institution for the Blind.

ADDRESS BY MR. C. A. PEARSON.

THE annual meeting of the Leicester Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind was held at the Town Hall recently, when the Mayor (Alderman J. North) presided, and an address was given by Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, President of The National Institution for the Blind.

The Mayor, in proposing the adoption of the report, extended a hearty welcome to Mr. Pearson, with whose great work, he said, they were all more or less acquainted. He regarded the report as a most encouraging one, especially in regard to the financial support, which he thought was particularly satisfactory when they took into consideration the numerous demands upon the public. The Mayor then went on to refer to the concert which was recently held in the De Montford Hall in aid of the funds of the National Institution, and he asked Mr. Pearson to accept a cheque for £300, the proceeds of the event.

"THE PALACE OF HOPE."—Mr. Pearson, in returning thanks for the gift, said the concert was one of a series held in different parts of the country, and from a financial point of view the Leicester concert was the most successful of the entire series. He understood it was attended by about 3,000 people, and that the £300 was not all due to the sale of tickets, but to other kindly efforts of the Mayor, Mayoress,

and others, which substantially increased the amount realised from the actual sale of tickets. Proceeding, Mr. Pearson gave what he described as a lightning sketch of the work done by the National Institution, particularly in relation to the training of the blind heroes at St. Dunstan's Home, or the "Palace of Hope," as Mr. Pearson proudly said it was often regarded. A great deal of sympathy and interest he said was generally taken in blind folk. There was also a great deal of misconception about them. People credited them with a variety of extraordinary qualities which they did not possess, and an equal variety of disabilities from which they did not suffer. His own experience led him to believe that some people thought that a person on becoming blind also lost the ability to stand upright. (Laughter.) Sometimes he was taken by the arm and dragged along in a manner which, to say the least, was most embarrassing. One of the great disabilities of blindness was the loss of independence in getting about, but the more a blind person was allowed to go about unaided the better, and at St. Dunstan's the blind were taught that the best way to avoid bumping one's nose on a door was to bump it. (Laughter.)

"THE WRONG NOTE."—He strongly appealed to them not to regard the blind, if they were otherwise healthy, as afflicted. Theirs was not an affliction, but a handicap, and when they called it affliction they struck a wrong note, a note which would cause the blind to grieve over blindness instead of trying to overcome it. At St. Dunstan's there were 140 men. They were strong, healthy fellows, permeated with the spirit and determination to make themselves, as far as circumstances would permit, self-supporting and useful citizens. On arriving at the Home many of them were in a state of depression, but that condition was removed in a short time, and there was no happier community in the country than those 140 blind soldiers. In fact, the only unhappy people were the visitors with the corners of their mouths dropped and handkerchiefs ready for action because they could not find the morose men they expected to see.

TRAINING AND AFTER-CARE.—Dealing with the training of the men, Mr. Pearson said they were taught to read the Braille system, and to use the typewriter, not so much as an occupation, but in order to be able to discharge the ordinary every-day correspondence, because blindness led to a gradual deterioration in handwriting. One of the secrets of the success of the training at St. Dunstan's was the shortness and frequency of the lessons. They were taught among other things carpentry, mat-making, massage, and diving. But it was useless to train the men, and then send them out into the world uncared for. They had, therefore, decided to form an After-Care Committee, which he hoped would be but a beginning of the most widespread movement started in this country in the interests of the blind. The movement would be confined to the blind soldiers first, and subsequently extended to the blind home workers. In conclusion, Mr. Pearson referred in felicitous terms to the Leicester Institution, and said he was satisfied that the blind in this district were wonderfully looked after. He expressed the hope that the Leicester Institution would extend its care to the blind throughout the county, and he mentioned that if

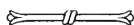
financial support was likely to be an obstacle, a gift of a penny from every person in the county would enable them to undertake the task.

THANKS.—Mr. W. Thornley, proposing a vote of thanks to the committee and officers of the Association, said he believed the committee would readily take up Mr. Pearson's suggestion.

Mr. Hy. Durston, hon. secretary, replied.

On the motion of Ald. A. E. Sawday, seconded by Mr. H. Donisthorpe, a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Pearson.

The committee was elected as follows:—The Mayor, the Deputy-Mayor, Councillors P. L. Baker and W. Bates, Mr. H. T. Chambers, J.P., Ald. J. Chaplin, J.P., Messrs. Hamilton Donisthorpe, H. Durston, J. B. Everard, J.P., F. W. Harris, M.A., N. C. Ridley, M.B., F.R.C.S., W. Sculthorpe, W. N. Toller, J.P., Ald. A. Tollington, Messrs. G. C. Turner, Albert Tyler, Arthur Tyler, Alec. Tyler, Ald. T. Windley, J.P., and Sir Edward Wood, J.P.



Blinded Heroes' Sunday.

A GREAT MUSIC HALL EFFORT.

One of the most comprehensive schemes ever projected in the annals of music hall history is in the process of formation.

Its object is to raise a large sum of money for the purpose of alleviating the lot of the blinded fighters of the war, both soldiers and sailors, ensuring them all possible present and future comfort, and devoted to the general purposes of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee, of which Mr. C. Arthur Pearson is chairman.

It is proposed to hold a high-class entertainment at the leading music hall in each town throughout the United Kingdom, and at the whole of variety houses in London and the suburbs one Sunday evening, and the date suggested is May 28th. "Blinded Heroes' Sunday" is the title given to the day.

With this idea in view Mr. Frank Allen, managing director of Moss' Empires, Ltd., which company controls nearly forty variety theatres, is establishing an influential committee comprising the leading music hall proprietors and managers, and already Messrs. Henri Tozer and Joseph Davis (syndicate halls 10 halls), Mr. Charles Gulliver (London Theatre of Varieties, 17 halls), Mr. Walter De Frece (Variety Theatres Controlling, 14 halls) and West End management have associated themselves with the event, while the chief of other circuits and independent halls are expected to join in the scheme.

There will be no such thing as "opposition" on this day. All will unite in common sympathy with the great and worthy cause and work in unison to achieve a record result.

Throughout the variety profession, a generous body ever ready to contribute to the success of any deserving charitable enterprise, willingness has been expressed by the members to "do their bit." Sunday is usually their busiest day of the week, it being generally occupied in packing up and making ready for the following week's engagement, but by their liberal sacrifice of time and by means of special arrangements, all difficulties in this direction will be obviated.

Rival companies in each town will work hand in hand together on the same bill, by permission of their respective managements, and a still more important factor is that the Variety Artistes' Federation have waived their rigid rule against Sunday shows in this exceptional case and granted permission for its members, numbering over 2,000, to appear in the interests of this extensive undertaking.

The Mayor of each town will be invited to identify himself with the local performance and establish a sub-committee.

It is intended to further extend the idea by approaching the proprietors of the chief cinema theatre of each place that does not boast a variety theatre, with the view of allotting their proceeds (or part) of their entertainment on May 28th to the fund.



The Rev. H. J. R. Marston's Report.

The Rev. Herbert J. R. Marston, who resigned his office as Chaplain of The National Institute for the Blind, consequent upon his acceptance of the Rectory of East Lydford, Somerset, has presented to the Council a final report covering the period May 1st, 1914, to December 31st, 1915.

During the year 1915 he despatched 688 letters of all sorts. Some of these were letters of great importance, and some of them occupied a good deal of time in composition. He made frequent visits to the Institute itself, in order to confer with Mr. Stainsby, with Mr. Edwards, or other members of the staff, on matters connected with the Chaplain's work. Besides these visits, he has made notes of about twenty-four other visits made in the course of the year 1915, in connection with the Chaplaincy, including several to the S.P.C.K., one to the India House, one to the Newcastle School for the Blind, three to St. Dunstan's Hostel, and several to blind persons, to examine their cases and to obtain help for them. In these last-mentioned cases the help has been most readily forthcoming, and has given great gladness and done much good.

During the greater part of the period covered by Mr. Marston's Chaplaincy the war has been going on, and consequently the raising of funds by collections in churches has been done under war conditions. The number of churches in which he has preached sermons for the Institute is sixty-seven. The total amount raised by collections in churches by him during the twenty months has been approximately £491 8s. 7d. The largest amount of any one collection was that at St. James's, Piccadilly, on Blind Man's Sunday, May, 1914, £60. Other notable collections were those at St. Peter's, Vere Street, in May, 1915, which totalled in the day more than £10, and at St. Mary's, The Boltons, July, 1916, which amounted in the morning to over £26.

He has lectured on the work of the Institute or on problems of education of the blind in fourteen places. The principal lectures were delivered at University College, Oxford, with the Master in the chair; Bishop Hatfield's Hall, Durham, with Dr. Fowler in the chair; the Great Hall, Tunbridge Wells, with the Bishop of Rochester in the chair;

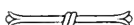
the Godolphin School, Salisbury, with the Headmistress in the chair; and the Diocesan Training College, Truro, with the Bishop of St. German's in the chair.

The approximate total of money received is: By collections in churches, £491 8s. 7d.; by proceeds from lectures, £113 2s. 4d.; by donations and subscriptions, £51 5s.—total, £655 15s. 11d.



Prize Essay Competition for the Gold Medal of The College of Teachers of the Blind.

IN connection with the above we have been asked to announce that only one essay was submitted to the Examiners in 1915; and as it did not in their opinion come up to the standard they deemed necessary no medal was awarded. It has now been decided by the Committee that the next competition will be held in 1917, that is to say there will be no competition in 1918. It has been also decided that the subject of the next competition shall be "The History of the Education of the Blind, from 1830 to 1868," instead of from 1830 to 1893 as previously announced.



New Library Facilities for the Blind.

THE Carnegie United Kingdom Trust have purchased 18, Tufton Street, Westminster (formerly the property of the Architectural Association) for The National Library for the Blind, and on March 24th the gift was presented by H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyle, as President of the Library. Lord Shaw of Dunfermline acted on behalf of the Trust. The new building gives ample space for the books, also for a reading-room and reference-library, which have never been attempted before. Free use of the library is given to all blinded soldiers and sailors. The library owes much to public library sympathy and co-operation, and especially to Mr. James Dongan of Oxford, and Mr. L. S. Jast of Manchester. As far as we know, it is the only library for the blind in the world that is not a department or branch of an institution with other charitable objects. It possesses 23,000 volumes of all classes of literature, and a valuable music library of 300,000 volumes and an Esperanto section. The circulation is 300 volumes per day. Arrangements have been made for a regular exchange of books with the library for the blind in Paris, so that good French literature will now be available for British readers. The building is open for work, but the formal opening will not take place till the autumn.



A New Institute for the Blind and Deaf.

By the generosity of the late Mr. Clayton, the blind and deaf societies of Burnley and district are, in the near future, to come into a bequest of £2,000 for the erection and furnishing of a blind and deaf institute.

Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility for the views of his correspondents.]

BRITISH BRAILLE.

SIR.—I have been much interested for months past in the discussion that has been carried on in the pages of your paper on the subject of British Braille *versus* Standard Dot. I am very glad, as a sighted Braille writer with many blind friends, to see the antagonism shown to any material alteration in our present system.

I agree with some correspondents, however, that there might be a few improvements made. Mr. Ford makes some good suggestions, but I do not find all of them quite sound.

With regard to Rule 5. I see no objection to the use of “ble” at the commencement of a word, and certainly not after a hyphen, in a fresh line, when such an ending to the word would naturally be looked for.

I find no difficulty in Rule 8, the contradiction he alludes to referring only to *lower* signs, which then come under Rule 13.

Rule 10. I cannot see why objection should be made to the use of dot 4 “h” in “adherent” (especially as it would certainly be used in “adhere”) nor dot 4 “m” in “smother,” which would be perfectly correct both as to spelling and sound. We might just as well make the same sort of objections to the use of “and,” “the,” “of” etc., in fact, I call the use of “the” in such a word as “smother” very much more clumsy than the way I uphold above. As to the rest of the words he mentions, we are so accustomed to them that it would probably cause confusion to stop their present form.

I also see no reason why “ong” or “ing” should be barred in such words as “incongruous,” “mongrel,” “ingle,” etc., where the “g” is hard; but I *do* think the use of either “ing” or “ong” very trying in words where the “g” is soft, as in “spongy,” “sing,” “dingy.”

To allow “be,” “con,” “dis” and “com” to be used in conjunction with each other would to my mind cause much confusion, as these signs also stand for “bb,” “cc,” “dd” and the hyphen.

I think the rule for “to,” “into,” “by” and the numeral sign, mentioned by “Quod Tuum Tene” is better left alone.—Yours, etc.,
VIOLET M. LATHAM.

DEAR SIR,—If any alterations are made in our Braille, I would advocate the use of the American Braille capital and full stop signs, namely dots 5-6. I consider the non-use of a capital sign in British Braille a defect. What would letterpress look like without capitals? Our present capital sign is in my opinion not a good one, and hence its non-use. Dots 5-6 lend themselves in every way to making an ideal capital sign. They are not obtrusive, and would not interfere with rapid reading, and readers would very quickly get accustomed to it and would then find its real value. Its educational value alone is great. A good capital sign would do away with the writing in uncontracted

Braille of proper names. I feel sure the use of a practical capital sign must have been in the minds of many of your readers.—Yours faithfully,
GEORGE W. AULD, 18, Lansdown Crescent, Edinburgh, April 7th, 1916.

DEAR SIR,—In the discussion on the “Standard Dot System” almost all your correspondents have had a hard word to say concerning this latest type for the blind. I myself cannot say much in favour of it as it stands at present. But it possesses something in common with our Braille which draws our attention, and that is its alphabet. We have to condemn its third base and its various contractions, but still there is one thing we like, its alphabet, and on this ground of a common alphabet an agreement with Americans is possible.

I have read in an American point magazine a short report of a meeting of the committee which now has the development of Standard Dot in its keeping, to the effect that the members of this committee did not want to establish an extra system, that if uniformity could not be obtained the system would be dropped, but that this committee would do its utmost, by adopting changes in the new system, to make it universal. From this one must understand that American authorities are prepared to receive and consider suggestions to perfect the system which they hope the English-speaking blind will accept. Now, why do your English blind enthusiasts not confer with the American authorities in charge of the Standard Dot System and try to make them adopt the development of the Braille alphabet as we have it on this side of the Atlantic?

There may not be much use in pointing out the great advantages of uniformity of type for the English-speaking blind world. These seem to me to be very patent, though they also seem to be quite overlooked by your many correspondents. Indeed, these same advantages would be more to the benefit of publishers of embossed matter than to the readers, though the advantages to them would be also very great. It would appear to me that these advantages of uniformity would be more valuable to British publishers than to American publishers. They have the plant of producing upright point which belongs to few in America. The chief benefit to readers would be the cheapening of embossed books, for enlarged circulation of same would result and this would mean cheaper books.

How desirable it would be to possess uniformity, even at the risk of taking a backward step in our own system? Uniformity would by far outbalance any retrograde movement that may be taken. I fear I may incur the serious displeasure of some of your readers for putting down such a statement, but I believe what I have said is true. Even those who have most condemned Standard Dot admit by calling for changes in the present Braille, that our present Braille is not by any means perfect. There is one thing true and that is that the ideal will ever be out of reach.—Yours, etc., C. T. MACGINLEY.

SIR.—With regard to further restriction in the use of Braille contractions, the question should not be whether such restriction would

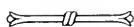
satisfy a few orthographical and etymological faddists, but whether it would facilitate reading. The disposition of the first four letters of "reapers" and "reappear" is exactly the same in ordinary print, and presents no difficulty in reading to any intelligent child of ten. The logical issue of such faddist restrictions would be the writing in full of such words as "final." The writing in full of familiar proper names is retrograde, and vexatious because it serves no object whatever.

When a dash is followed by "his," "was" or "were" why not leave a clear space after the dash, and contract the following word. The use of lower signs might be far less restricted than at present. If it be granted that a lower sign with a clear space on either side of it is easily located, then there can be no difficulty in locating any succession of such signs that could occur in practical work.—Yours faithfully, G. DENNISS HALLER.

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S.P.G. STUDY CIRCLES IN BRAILLE.

SIR,—It may interest some of your readers to know that a system of Braille "Study Circles" is in existence. A book or syllabus on a Bible or missionary subject is chosen; six or seven people study it at the same time, questions being sent out monthly by the "leader," to whom the answers are returned, and who then sends them all round from member to member. All the work is done in Braille, and Braille books are supplied to members of these circles to help them to study the subject thoroughly. Anyone wishing for further information about this organisation should apply to Miss Gray, Westmoor, Tillington, Petworth, who will gladly answer any questions in Braille, and who is ready to put down the name of anyone wishing to join a Circle. There is no entrance fee of any kind.—SIBYL GRAY, Director of the S.P.G. Braille Circles.



Blind.

(After a Visit to St. Dunstan's Hostel.)

BLIND. But we gave our sight
For a great cause—the Right!

Blind. We would give no less;
Our Pride, our Sightlessness!

Blind. Do not weep again;
Envy us rather;—men
Blind, but who did their part
Gladly, with willing heart.

Blind. But we still have life;
Quietness after strife.
Work: the hot sun: the breeze;
Love;—and proud memories.

Blind; but of courage high,
We ask no reason why,
And, old things left behind,
Learn—smiling—to be blind!

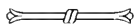
ETHEL TALBOT.

Review.

THE EYES OF OUR CHILDREN, by N. Bishop Harman, M.A., M.B., Cantab. (Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England).

This book points out most directly that the sight of the eye is one of our most precious senses ; through the eyes we learn most ; and can teach most ; and through them we can suffer if they are defective or ill-used.

The influence of sight is no less strong in the individual. Blindness is a calamity few can weigh ; and in their degree defects of sight, whether by reason of disease or natural imperfection, affect mind and habit. The round shouldered boy is only too often found to be the short-sighted boy, who becomes a book recluse, just because the pleasure of games has gone with the power to see clearly and smartly. Another boy has eyes that focus near objects together with difficulty, and so that boy hates lessons, and, not unwisely perhaps, plays truant at every opportunity. The influence of sight on the whole attitude of the child, both mental and physical, is so great that no pains should be spared to secure the eyes from injury and to secure those defects being remedied, that may be inherent in their working. It is interesting to note that the first step in school hygiene, and all this has meant for the health and happiness of youth, was made in relation to the eyes. This little book deals with the eyes of the child, their common defects, and the best means of safeguarding their use at school and at home ; it will be found to be free from hard and technical phrases, so that all who are interested in children may read and understand.



Blind Soldier in the 'Bus.

PREACHING at Oxford Place Wesleyan Chapel, Leeds, the Rev. J. H. Bateson, secretary of the Army and Navy Board, who was under shell-fire during his stay at the front, said that soldiers blinded in the war were the brightest and most cheery people he had seen in London during the past six months.

Illustrating this he said one night he boarded an omnibus crowded with people looking glum and miserable. It was raining, and the wind blew with hurricane violence. The omnibus stopped, and a cheerful voice shouted "Is there a seat in here?" Presently the conductor assisted a sightless soldier into a seat, and the moment the new passenger had made himself comfortable he began to whistle his latest pantomime airs. He was only a boy of nineteen, and he had just been given leave from St. Dunstan's Hostel.

Finishing the air "Here we are! Here we are! Here we are again!" the following dialogue took place:

Passenger: You look very happy.

Soldier: Yes, of course, but tell me when we reach the West End. Is my face clean, and are my hands quite clean?

Passenger: Yes, you are all right. Going to see your best girl, eh?

Soldier: Rather, sir, I have not seen her for a week. Thereupon the soldier whistled a love lullaby.

The congregation, moved by the story, cheered loudly.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE APRIL NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—A Naval Digression, by G. F. (*to be continued*) from *Blackwood's Magazine*—Russia's Biggest Bag, by George H. Mewes, from *The London Magazine*—Sorting the Wounded, a first hand narrative from France, by Reginald Earle Looker, from *The Sphere*—War-Time "Zoo."

Progress.—Editorial—Matters of the Moment—Biographies of the Blind: Alfred Hirst—Roumanian Customs and Superstitions, by G. Basil Barham, from *Chambers's Journal*—Correspondence—Our French Page—Massage for the Blind—Grave and Gay—Question Box—Chess—How to take Care of the Sick at Home—Our Home Page—Advertisements—Our Prize Competition—Inset: Map of Suez Canal—Supplement: "Some Spy," a Complete Story, by Jessie Pope.

Comrades.—Timothy's Shoes, Parts IX. and X., "Bernardus on Duty" and "The Shoes go Home" by J. H. Ewing—Curious Companions, anecdotes related by W. H. Hudson—The Shag, by Celia Thaxter (Grade I.)

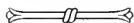
School Magazine.—The Golden Touch, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*concluded*)—Monthly Almanack—Heligoland in Peace and War, from *Chambers's Journal*—The Voyage of the "Valiant," a Serial Story from "The Scout," by E. Le Breton Martin. Chapters II. to IV.

Braille Musical Magazine Supplement.—The Royal College of Organists, from *Musical News*—An Interview with Mrs. MacDowell, by Percy A. Scholes, from *The Music Student*—The Songs of MacDowell, by Edward S. Mitchell, from *The Music Student*—The Part-Songs of MacDowell, by R. R. Terry, Mus. D., from *The Music Student*—The Music of Felicity, from *The Birmingham Daily Post*—Some Songs and Airs: "Auld Lang Syne" and its tune, by J. Cuthbert Hadden, from *Musical Opinion*—Sir George Clement Martin, from *The Musical Times*—Some Points for Beginner Teachers, by A Teacher, from *The Organist and Choirmaster*—Poor National Anthem! from *Musical News*.

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture on the Causation and Treatment of Flat Feet, by W. H. Trethowan, F.R.C.S.—Some Points to be considered in Teaching Massage to the Blind, by A. E. Keen—Official Notices—Reports on Massage Exam.—Result of Massage Exam.—List of Officers—Balance Sheet

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon type).—An English Woman's Adventures in the German's Lines (*continued*)—Millions that Nobody Claims—There are Old Beliefs—What Soldiers Eat—Our Kindly King—Chief of Germany's War Staff.



A Blind Barrister.

MR. HARRY JOHNSON, who has just died, was a familiar figure in Lincoln's Inn. Notwithstanding his handicap, which came to him somewhat late in life, he managed to get through a large amount of legal work of the most intricate description, by the aid of a secretary and a wonderful memory.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER. Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

The National Institute for the Blind have For Sale a number of **Goat Skin Rugs** made by a blind man. They are beautifully made and are in a variety of patterns, each measuring 69 in. by 36 in., the price being Grey Rugs, 11s.; and Black Rugs, 11s. 6d. each.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

JUNE, 1916.

No. 6.

Editorial.

THE decision arrived at by the committee responsible for the Music Hall appeal on behalf of the Blinded Heroes' Fund to give week-day matinées instead of Sunday performances has met with general approval.

In the May issue of *The Braille Review* we reprinted an extract from the daily press which gave details of the scheme promoted by Mr. Frank Allen, Managing Director of the Moss Empires Ltd., the object being to raise a large sum of money for the purpose of alleviating the lot of the blinded fighters of the war. The proposition then mooted was to hold a high-class entertainment at the leading music-halls in each town throughout the United Kingdom on a Sunday evening, the date suggested being May 28th. We printed this article without comment, merely treating it as a piece of news, without considering the fact that there might be many people who would imagine this was an expression of what we ourselves felt on the matter. As a matter of fact we rejoice to think that the performances are to be given on a week-day, and sincerely trust the movement will have all the support it deserves. The subjoined letter from Canon Ottley expresses very clearly the views of most people on the matter :—

“BLIND SUNDAY.”

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

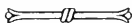
SIR,—By their opportune withdrawal of the proposal for the general opening of variety theatres, music-halls, and picture palaces, &c., on Sunday, May 28th, in aid of our blinded soldiers and sailors the promoters have earned the grateful appreciation of that very large proportion of the community who, having regard to the importance of the principle involved, viewed the “Blind Sunday” scheme with profound anxiety and disapproval. The transfer of the proposed performances from Sunday to a week-day—as suggested in the letter you kindly published on April 24th—clearly affords a unique opportunity for securing the co-operation of the Churches in the endeavour to place the splendid work of the “Blinded Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Fund” beyond the risk of financial impoverishment.

Of the sympathy of the clergy of all denominations with the sufferings of our gallant men thus cruelly deprived of “the light of life” there can be no doubt. And if on Sunday, May 28th (or on

any other more convenient Sunday) their congregations could be invited to contribute, either collectively or by individual donations, to this truly sacred cause, the funds of the charity would be substantially augmented, and a practical—and perhaps not altogether unnecessary—proof would be given that the motives of those who were unable to approve the original proposal were not less disinterested and sincere than those which inspired its promoters.— Faithfully yours, H. BICKERSTETH OTTLEY, Hon. Canon of Canterbury; Hon. Secretary, Imperial Sunday Alliance, 1, Albemarle Street, W.

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Our readers who have followed the discussions in this journal on Standard Dot will be interested to learn that the American commission on "Uniform Type for the Blind" is now desirous of considering a modification of British Braille as the standard system for the English-speaking blind throughout the world. On the initiative of the National Institute a meeting of ten important societies was held in the Institute's lecture room on Friday, May 19th, for the purpose of taking steps "to form a thoroughly representative committee (which shall be in effect a national committee) to deal with the whole question of Uniform Type." The result was that the meeting decided to invite representation for—(a) publishing houses, (b) educational institutions, (c) home-teaching societies, (d) libraries. The feeling of the meeting was that the modification of British Braille as suggested by the American Commission would form an excellent basis for negotiations. We hope to deal fully with this important development later.



Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind.

SERIOUS STATE OF FUNDS.

INSTITUTION'S CLAIM IN WAR TIME.

EARNEST appeals for public assistance to place the Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind in a stronger position—there was a deficit of £716 on last year's working—were voiced at the annual general meeting of subscribers held in the Townhouse yesterday.

Lord Provost Taggart, who presided, was supported by Dr. John Gordon, vice-chairman of governors, Professor Davidson, Mr. D. M. M. Milligan, clerk and treasurer, and Mr. W. Meston, manager.

The Lord Provost expressed satisfaction with the action of the directors in giving the workers an increase in wages, and hoped they would have money enough in the coming year to give them a still better wage. In the market they were handicapped by the fact that they had to compete against machinery which turned out articles at a cheaper rate than the blind people could make them. The workers were carefully and kindly attended to, and he trusted that Saturday's flag day would have a response from the citizens as strong as that of flag days for war or other purposes. This was really one of the best objects they could have. (Applause.) The sympathies of all went out to the sightless, and the flag day must be made a success. It was disappointing to find a deficit of £700 on the year, and he would strongly recommend the

public to increase its support for so admirable an institution. Its needs had surely only to be brought before the city to be met by the necessary liberality. (Applause.) He moved the adoption of the annual report.

Dr. John Gordon, in seconding, said he must express the feelings of the governors and those connected with the institution regarding the resignation of their chairman, the Rev. William Brebner. Mr. Brebner had served the Asylum well for many years, first as governor and then as chairman; he had taken a deep interest in its welfare, and his tact, kindness, and considerate treatment of those requiring its care had been most conspicuous. He only voiced the feeling of the meeting and of the governors when he expressed their thanks for the past service, and their hope that Mr. Brebner would be speedily restored to his health and usefulness in the city. (Applause.)

Those were anxious times for the Asylum, and the year closed with a deficit of over £700. That was really a disastrous state of finance, but it was not possible to obviate the causes which brought it about. In the first place, the cost of materials for the institution had been greatly increased in all directions, and they had not been able to receive from the general public prices commensurate to the cost of production of the articles. Some sources of profit had been lost. The war had swept away trawlers and other fishing craft from the North Sea, and baskets were not required. That was temporary, but it had contributed to the deficit. Then they had been forced—willingly, he would say—to increase the wages of the blind workers. They did that in spite of depleted finances, the governors feeling that they must stretch a point and depend on the generosity of the public. The wages were small enough before, and to have continued to give the same rate of remuneration in face of the greatly-increased cost of living would have looked like keeping the workers at a starvation wage. The governors could not apologise for their action. He thought they did the right thing for the blind, upon whose labours the institution depended for its success. (Applause.) The Asylum depended on two things for its maintenance. First, there was the commercial value of the work done. Unfortunately, that was not sufficient to maintain the blind worker in anything like comfort, because the work was not so remunerative as it ought to be. They depended also on donations, subscriptions, and legacies from the good-hearted general public. He appealed for increased liberality, and suggested that those with means should not forget the Asylum when drawing up their bequests. He put it to them that in their midst this institution was endeavouring to maintain a class of worker who was not able to receive the full remuneration for the work that he should receive. It existed to help the blind to help themselves, and to give them a degree of independence. It was not possible to draw a sharp line between what was charity and what was of commercial value; his appeal to the public was that they dealt with a class who needed their keep and assistance, and who, in all cases, were worthy of it. (Applause.)

The condition of the finances was serious. He was only speaking the truth when he said the institution was really in a very bad way. An appeal had been made to the public, but in view of the very serious state of affairs the governors thought they would approach the public

in a new direction, and were to have a flag day. (Applause.) They felt they had a claim in war time, because there would be sent to them soldiers and sailors who had been deprived of their sight in defending their hearths and homes. He had the privilege recently of seeing through St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blind Soldiers and Sailors, established by Mr. C. A. Pearson, and could speak of the remarkable work being carried on there. So far as massage was concerned their skill was remarkable, and would have done credit to a trained nurse. The men were most useful, adaptive and skilful in all they did. They represented a class who would come to them, and if they could not give all such heroes the Victoria Cross they could at least give them comfort, help and care.

The report was adopted.

It was intimated that the subscriptions, exclusive of donations, amounted to £759, which allowed eight representatives to be elected as governors. The following, who had been nominated, were elected:—Lady Lyon, Professor Davidson, the Rev. G. Walker, the Rev. L. Tavener, Mr. J. D. Mackie, advocate; Mr. Alex. Bisset, 38, Wallfield Crescent; Mrs. Asher, 31, John Street; and Provost Leask Peterhead.

On the call of the Rev. G. Walker, the Lord Provost was thanked for presiding.—*The Aberdeen Journal*, 12th May, 1916.



The Blind Harpist.

SOME details of the career of a musician whose way lies out of the "beaten track" are supplied to us by a correspondent. The name of this musician is Arthur Owen, and he is known as the "blind harpist of Bettws-y-Coed." As a child an artist was attracted by his pathetic sightlessness and sent him a musical box and later a zither. Some time afterwards Mr. Hooton—for that was the artist's name—again went to Bettws-y-Coed, and his friends told him about a young man who was blind and who played the harp most beautifully. Our correspondent says: "I heard this man playing, and he seemed a very fair musician. He played a selection of the old Welsh melodies which sounded extra well, being out in the open among the mountains. I shall never forget it, it was near the 'Fairy Glen,' and the sound of the waterfall and the birds seemed to greatly add to the beauty of it.—*Musical Standard*, April 1st.



SOMEBODY was recently counting up those home and civil reputations which have grown with the war, but one name was omitted which certainly should have been high on the list—Mr. C. Arthur Pearson's. I am reminded again of his great public services by reading that his Fresh Aid Fund is now in its twenty-sixth year—that admirable imaginative organisation which gets thousands of London children into the country every summer. But that is only one of Mr. Pearson's activities, and he is perhaps now best known by his promotion of The St. Dunstan's Home for Blinded Soldiers and by his work for the blind—whose dark company he himself joined, inevitably but very bravely, not long since—generally. I consider that England's debt to him is great indeed.—*Sphere*, May 13th.

The House of Hope.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE BLIND.

I HAVE been spending some busy days this week with the business of war, and I have learned once more the lesson that the art of life is to make use of everything, that nothing is worthless, that every cloud has its brighter side, that guinea-pigs can save human lives, that life must be conducted upon Nature's plan, that nothing and nobody must be wasted. So we shall do something with the slackers and shirkers yet. We shall make men and soldiers of them possibly. I have been visiting an ex-lunatic asylum which has been turned into a repairing shop for men broken in the war, and a most wonderful repairing shop it is. It is called La Maison Blanche. I don't know how intimate you are with lunatic asylums, but I have been in a good many (*please* don't be obvious!), and I have never found them the forbidding, prison-like places popular belief paints (if you care to spend an hour or so saying that very quickly, several times over, don't mind me). The Maison Blanche, which is near Ville Evard, is a beautiful estate with smiling gardens, acres of grounds, kitchen gardens which makes you very, very hungry, but not as hungry as the immense kitchen where they let me sniff at a lunch which sent me rushing back to Paris for my own. The only whole man I saw there was one of the doctors, and he was leaving for the Front next day, he said. The Maison Blanche startles you a little at first. You stroll down a path and meet an elderly man with his arms full of legs. You stop him, and he explains that one of the legs is a new one of his own, the other two belong to Dubois and Durand, and that *on va voir ce que ça donnera, mon commandant*. And he goes on his way whistling and singing on two stumps and a cane, and why he doesn't drop the legs, fall over them, and kill himself is quite a mystery. He has only been there a few weeks, but the cheery atmosphere of the place has got hold of him, and he goes to try on a new leg with less fuss than I make about a new boot. 'Swonderful!

A few minutes after that I met a man in corduroy. He didn't look very well. He leaned heavily on his stick and he was walking rather slowly. "How are you getting on?" said the commandant. "I'm walking all right, mon commandant," he said, "but I find it very tiring standing still." We nodded to him and he went off. His two legs had been amputated just above the knee. He has two mechanical legs. Nice, aren't they? You never noticed them, did you? But he worries a bit because he can't remain standing without fatigue. He's a carpenter, you see. "He doesn't want to learn another trade if he can help it," said the commandant. "*Eh bien, Père Lebrun?*" Père Lebrun was an elderly man, a Territorial. One of his legs was gone, the other one bent curiously out of shape. He was stumping off happily, carrying a new leg over his shoulder, because that's what they do at Maison Blanche. They mend their men, teach them to walk or use their new arms or hands, and then, if necessary, with a new trade they send them out into the world armed with a pension and quite ready for the struggle for existence. Everybody's too busy to worry and everybody is too hopeful to worry. The broken men see such miraculous

mending all round them every day, see so many comrades who had been hopeless hoping like normal mortals again, that cheerfulness is the rule. There are several of these schools or human repair shops dotted over France. They are all doing very wonderful work, but what impresses me most in them all is the wonderful ingenuity with which the morale of the men is kept up. I asked the doctor commandant how it was done. "Good example," he said. "Good food, discipline, but not too much of it, liberty of thought and action, but liberty which we direct, energies which we put into useful channels, hope which we inject, all day and every day. When a man who has lost a leg sees a man who has lost two walking about the grounds and whistling, making cabinets or gardening, he doesn't feel that his own future is as hopeless as he thought it was. A countryman feels suicidal because he has lost a hand. We put one on him, teach him how to use it, and show him that he can go off and do field work, richer by his pension than he ever was before. "Yes," I said; "your shop repairs minds as well as men." "Exactly," said the doctor. "You know what they call the *Maison Blanche*, now, in the neighbourhood? They call it '*La Maison de l'Espoir*'—the House of Hope."

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And the same afternoon I went out to the Annexe of the Quinze Vingt Hospital at Reuilly and saw them re-educating the blind soldier there. These homes for the blind and schools for the blind are always wonderful, and the cheerfulness of the blinded soldier is one of the most heartbreaking things in my experience. My experience of the men is—and I have seen a good deal of them in different places—that the blind man at work is much more cheerful than the blind man at play. I have seen blind men playing bowls and rowing, but they don't laugh much when they do these things. And they are always merry when they work. I noticed once again at Reuilly the eagerness with which they work. One man came into a workshop where net-making was being taught. He went straight to his appointed place, but his unfinished work wasn't ready for him and he shouted for Mlle. Jeanne. Mlle. Jeanne sprinted down the long room with it and put it in his place for him more quickly than I ever saw fingers move before. The man fell on the netting like a hungry dog on a bone, eagerly, feverishly. "*Ab, tout de meme!*" was all he said. And I took Nurse Jeanne out into the grounds, because you don't talk about blind men in a room if you don't want them to hear you, even in whispers. And Nurse Jeanne was very pretty, too. "Oh, they are all like that," she said; "impatience is their peculiarity. Their nerves are strung to a high pitch, I suppose, and they do everything at top speed. You don't often see a blind man walking slowly, for instance, unless he has been blind all his life." If any of you have a £10 note to spare and some spare time, I'll tell you what to do with them. They showed me at the Reuilly Institute a wonderful little printing machine for the blind invented by a journalist, Ernest Vaughan, a Frenchman in spite of his English name. It is a simple little machine, and costs £10 with a set of type complete. It doesn't print ordinary books: it prints Braille books, and anyone who can spell can use it, whether they know Braille or not. You set the

type in formes, but you set them with the ordinary letters. The Braille letters are at the other end of the type, and when you have set your page you merely turn the forme over, put it into the press, put a piece of paper and a rubber pad on top, run it through by turning a handle, and you have printed your page of Braille. The idea is to sell as many of these little presses as possible and to ask people to use their spare time in printing off books which interest them, which may be distributed to the blind. It is light work, pleasant work, and much more amusing than making socks. And the blind cannot have too many books. A letter to Corporal Guy Robert du Costal, Maison des Soldats Aveugles de Reuilly, enclosing a £10 note, will get you a press with everything belonging to it, a thousand types, a certain amount of special paper, and covers for binding, and, if I know the Corporal at all, a letter of explosive thanks and thorough explanation, for the Corporal—who is, incidentally, a sprig of French nobility and a charming fellow—is a real enthusiast. By the way, he prints off the communiqués twice every day in Braille for the blind soldiers of the Reuilly Institute.—*The Referee*, 14th May.



“A Nice Hobby!”

* BLINDED SOLDIER'S VIEW OF BLINDNESS.

MR. C. ARTHUR PEARSON, speaking at the opening of the day's sale of the Amateur Art Exhibition, held at Sir Philip Sassoon's house, 25, Park Lane, partly in aid of the blinded soldiers at St. Dunstan's, dwelt particularly upon the cheery and optimistic view of life taken by the men under his care. He told a story of one of them, who, when travelling in a motor 'bus with a member of the staff of St. Dunstan's, was noticed by an old lady, who condoled very sympathetically with him, and ended up by asking: “And how, my poor dear man, does it feel to be a blinded soldier?” To which question came the quick reply, “It's a very nice hobby, ma'am; you try it!”

Mr. Pearson said that all idea of blindness as an affliction was banished from St. Dunstan's. There it was regarded more in the light of a handicap, and one which can be overcome to a surprising degree. He said, “Patient resignation has far too long been regarded by people who can see as the one essential attribute of those who can not. To a point it is good to be patiently resigned to blindness or whatever other blow the fates may bestow upon one, but in my opinion courage, fortitude and determination to overcome the handicap which has been placed upon one are qualities of far greater import to the sightless.

“I fear I can only convey to you a very sketchy idea of the well and happily occupied lives of the men who are learning to be blind. I hope that those who hear me may feel a thrill of joy to think that the soldiers who so gallantly faced the enemy abroad are facing another enemy with just as high a gallantry, and are defeating the sombre spectre of blindness as thoroughly and effectually as their comrades who are still in the field will defeat the German hordes.”

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE BLIND. No. XI.

Mr. William Wolstenholme.

BLACKBURN, Worcester, Blackburn, London—thus has the life's journey of Mr. William Wolstenholme been pursued. His lot has fallen in many other places, but those have been the "bases" from which he has made successful sorties in the world of music. He was born in Blackburn on the 24th February, 1865. He was intended for the Church, but it was too early to settle that point when he went to the College for the Blind Sons of Gentlemen at Worcester. Mr. Wolstenholme was not a cathedral chorister, nor was he ever a student at the Royal Normal College at Upper Norwood, two avenues which have led out many musicians to their life's career. But he had musical antecedents. His father, an architect and surveyor, taught singing classes, and his mother was also an enthusiastic singer. His grandfather was a friend of Henry Smart, who was for some years organist of Blackburn Parish Church.

The College for the Blind was held at this time in the "Commandery," a charming mediæval building, dating from the days of the Knights Hospitallers, who built it ere they went to the Crusades. It was not a music school; music was taught as an extra, and the ordinary curriculum of a public school was followed. Excellently led by its headmaster, and splendidly served by its music masters, the College was of the greatest possible value to the boys, and especially to its most distinguished musical boy, William Wolstenholme.

The old building was abandoned in 1887, and the school transferred to Powyck until 1903, when it was moved out to Whittington, where a modern and well-arranged building was erected and equipped, and the name changed to the "College for Higher Education of the Blind." Here, under Mr. George Brown, the able and energetic headmaster, splendid work is being done.

The visiting music master in Wolstenholme's time was Dr. Done, who was connected with Worcester Cathedral as chorister and organist for no less than 70 years. He was a sincere lover of the classic and a most conscientious teacher, though he belonged to the old school of composition and was out of sympathy with much modern music.

Mr. Wolstenholme keeps up his connection with his old College. He is proud of the fact that it sent a company of Blind Boy Scouts to form a guard of honour when His Majesty the King recently opened The National Institute for the Blind in London. Every year he goes to the College for Speech Day, and gives an organ recital. He is also the centre of a group at the boys' social in the evening. A convivial week is made of the event, a cricket match, river excursion, and long walks relieving the indoor functions. The College undertakes the higher education of young gentlemen, and a good proportion enter the Church.

Braille music type is constantly under the fingers of Mr. Wolstenholme. Formerly he taught harmony with its aid from Banister's "Harmony," but he now uses Macpherson's "Practical Harmony." A glance at the four large volumes makes one realize how bulky and expensive a short work becomes when a blind pupil has to study it. Mr. Wolstenholme is one of the joint editors of the *Braille Musical*

Magazine, his colleagues being Mr. H. E. Platt, musical director at the Birmingham Institute for the Blind, and Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., of Oxford. He is also a member of the Book Committee and of the Consultative Music Committee.

On the advice of the latter committee the National Institute has now in hand for Braille printing a long carefully selected and comprehensive list of new music of various kinds.

Each number of the *Braille Musical Magazine*, which appears bi-monthly, contains two or more pieces of music, vocal or instrumental, and Mr. Wolstenholme voluntarily reads through the proof copy of every piece thus published, thereby ensuring great accuracy.

The Institute had the benefit of Mr. Wolstenholme's knowledge and experience in connection with the erection of the new organ lately installed in the Armitage Hall. The organ was built by Messrs. Norman and Beard to be a replica of the instrument in the Royal College of Organists, the object being to give the blind student an opportunity of practising upon an organ exactly similar to the one he would have to play upon for his Associate or Fellow's degree. It was thought desirable, however, to make the new organ, though primarily a students' organ, capable of successful use for recital purposes, the Royal College specification being deficient in this respect.

A committee of blind experts was called and after much deliberation a scheme was adopted whereby the necessary stops were added to the specification, so arranged that they can be entirely shut off when the organ is in use by a student.

For fifteen years Mr. Wolstenholme was organist and choirmaster of St. Paul's Church, Blackburn, where he was also very popular as recitalist, composer, and concert-giver. In 1902 he came to London, and was for two years organist at the fine church so well known as King's Weigh House. For the last ten years Mr. Wolstenholme has been happily settled at All Saints' Church, Norfolk Square. One of his predecessors was Dr. E. C. Bairstow, now organist of York Minster. Many MS. settings of chants and other items of church music written for All Saints' choir by this distinguished musician are still in use there and highly treasured. Such a succession of brilliant men is evidence of the insight of the vicar, the Rev. William Boyd. He is himself a musician. Who does not know his tune to "Fight the good fight"? He has composed much else, and better things for use at the church. His appreciation of his organist, like that of the choirmen and boys, is most cordial. He places Mr. Wolstenholme first as an extempore player, after having heard many masters of this art, including Gounod, Saint-Saëns, Widor, and Lefebure-Wely. Equally enthusiastic is he in regard to Mr. Wolstenholme's introductions to anthems, and his sympathy and freshness in all he does. The choir consists of 24 boys and about 12 men, and Mr. Wolstenholme is greatly helped in their training by Mr. Boyd's co-operation. A full cathedral service is rendered morning and evening. The three-manual organ by Hill leaves much to be desired to render it worthy of its executant. It has, however, some fine diapasons and its shortcomings in other respects are modified as far as possible by skilful manipulation.

In 1908 Mr. Wolstenholme was absent from England for three months. Those were red-letter days for him, as he was making an American tour that brought ever more hearers to his recitals. He visited New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Rochester, Buffalo, Fall River, and went also to one or two towns in Southern States. Recitals at University Colleges were enthusiastically received, including Yale, Vassar, Holyoke, Chambersburg, and Frederick. Blind schools were, of course, visited. At the head of the Philadelphia one was a very fine blind musician, Dr. David Wood, who died about four years ago. The visit to the States might have been extended for many months, as there were so many calls for recitals, but Mr. Wolstenholme could not stay any longer. At Rochester, one of the recitals was given in the residence of Mr. Eastman, the Kodak king, and there was an audience of millionaires. Giving four recitals, for example, in three days, and travelling and being entertained during most waking hours, Mr. Wolstenholme had not much time, apart from the performances, for making the acquaintance of organs, large and small, and of different types, but what he accomplished in this way surprised his hearers. At Buffalo the audience was the largest that had ever assembled at the Convention Hall organ recitals. "Such clean-cut finger technic," said the *Buffalo Express*, "has never before been heard in Convention Hall, and certainly better balance and more beautiful colouring would be difficult to find. Mr. Wolstenholme has an unerring instinct as to proportion, and his taste in registration is exquisite. He never sought for bizarre effects, yet there was never monotony of tone colour. Every composition was played with fine musicianly conception, with authority, and with a certain irresistible freshness." A sample of one of these programmes may be given: Boellman's Gothic Suite; Hollins's D \flat Intermezzo; Bach's Fugue a la Gigue; Allegro, Cantabile, and Toccata from Widor's Fifth Symphony; Overture to Gounod's *Mirella*; a Nocturne by J. F. Frysinger (an American pupil of the recitalist); and Wolstenholme's Scherzo in F, Carillon, and Finale. Another critic in the same town remarked that "There is little of the bravura element of the concert organist about Mr. Wolstenholme: he seems to seek for the poetical side of his art above everything. From beginning to end his playing was distinguished by a clear, definite rhythm and distinctness of phrasing that were a delight to hear, and invaluable as a model of fine organ playing. Noticeable was the standard of music used, every number except one (the *Mirella* transcription) being a genuine organ composition." A Glasgow critic was also greatly struck by the poetic side of original compositions played, and said that "Mr. Wolstenholme is one of those fortunate and happy mortals endowed with the gift of saying interesting musical things in an interesting manner; and, when the things intrinsically are not of high importance, the style in which they are uttered almost invariably imparts to them real fascination. They are characterised by a lively imagination held back from excesses by a refined sense of beauty, informed by an innate love of form and intention not to be beguiled from clarity and explicitness. It is not a rampant robustness, of fierce joy in the wielding of the potentialities of organ tones, and a revelling in the complexities of the texture that we find in Mr. Wolstenholme's compositions, but

rather delicate poetic fancies, clothed in colours that are bright and varied certainly, but harmoniously modulated, and expressed in terms that are never involved or obscure."

Examples of Mr. Wolstenholme's art of extemporisation might be quoted by many of our readers who have heard him play. One notable example was that which was given at the close of a lecture by Mr. T. J. Crawford on the subject, when it was shown how to extemporise a Nocturne, a Prelude, a Fugue, and the movements of a Sonata. Mr. Wolstenholme showed truly remarkable skill in treating a supplied theme in each of the styles named. The improvisation of a fugue, with its subject, counter-subject, episodes, working out, and stretto, was an astonishing feat, as was the impromptu sonata, the final movement—in the form of a scherzo—being a perfect gem.

At Worcester Wolstenholme was for a time a pupil of Sir Edward (then Mr.) Elgar, who visited the school in his capacity of violin teacher, and although he soon relinquished the violin in favour of the organ, the intimate knowledge of the violin thus gained was not lost, as is proved by the many successful items of Chamber Music, violin solos, etc., among Wolstenholme's works. For this early help and encouragement, and for his invaluable services rendered in connection with the preparation and examination for the Musical Bachelor's degree at Oxford, Wolstenholme feels that he owes a great debt of gratitude to Sir Edward, who acted voluntarily as amanuensis in writing out the exercise, a setting of Campbell's "Lord Ullin's Daughter," and also in the paper work of the examination room.

Composers whose music Mr. Wolstenholme is particularly fond of playing are Rheinberger, Mendelssohn (sonatas), César Franck, Saint-Saëns, and Guilmant, and his programmes always include an English name—Hollins, Faulkes, Bairstow, or other. "I am a great admirer and friend of Alfred Hollins. I play his pieces and send him Braille copies of mine."

The writing of vocal compositions is a department in which Mr. Wolstenholme has lately worked largely. For the Blackburn Ladies' Choir he has written "The Ballad of Sir Humphrey Gilbert," and several smaller works, while "The Choir Invisible" is the title of a choral group which includes settings of "Abou Ben Adhem," "Footsteps of Angels," and "Oh, May I Join the Choir Invisible?" Two song-cycles on English and Scottish folk-songs have been published by Cary, and as we listen to them we realise how the spirit of the words is always brought out by the accompaniments, which change with every verse, are never meretricious, but ever poetic. A very successful set of "Four Gift Songs" (Cary) is printed in one book, interpreting "A Greeting" (Browning), "Aspiration," "The Panacea," and "The Rose."

Some seventy pieces for organ and about thirty for pianoforte by Mr. Wolstenholme have been published, and he has also written (some still in manuscript) twenty works for various chamber music combinations (including two string quartets, a piano quartet, piano quintet, and one for wind instruments), seven for full orchestra, one for military band, besides various kinds of vocal music. Mr. Harvey Grace, in

Musical Opinion for December, 1912, tabulated the organ music, and gave an enthusiastic appreciation of much of it. Summing up, he says: "Wolstenholme's muse is pre-eminently a cheerful one. His compositions have a healthy ring about them, and also much of the flavour of old English songs and dances. . . While he never sounds a very deep note, his skimming over the surface is done so gracefully that one never feels disposed to complain. Is it not a striking fact that the man who has composed the most uniformly happy organ music of to-day is one whose life has been spent in total darkness? Admiring his courage and talent, we should also be grateful to him for having so conclusively proved that musicianship need not be a synonym for dulness, nor tune-fulness for vulgarity."

Much as he has accomplished, Mr. Wolstenholme is one of the most retiring of men. Some of his friends have a great ambition to hear him address a meeting, but they have never drawn him yet. One would like to see him also in the act of making music. Here he is splendidly assisted by his sister, Mrs. Furrell, a faithful amanuensis and manageress. At home he receives his pupils, and his study contains a pedalier on which he practises. Some of his pupils from America stay specially in London for organ and harmony lessons in the Hampstead home where we met Mr. Wolstenholme.

Hollins and Wolstenholme—those are names to be proud of. Hollins, whom W. T. Best dubbed "Alfred the Great," the story of his life appeared as long ago as our issue for March, 1899. Wolstenholme, whom Henry Smart promised to take as a pupil just before his death. We can scarcely believe that both these men are on the sunny side of fifty, and that men who have accomplished so much are sightless. Their patient work is a standing menace to the royal road seeker; their front rank is a constant encouragement to the serious students "who follow in their train."—From *The Musical Herald*.



The Ballad of Tom Maguire.

OLD BLIND SONG WRITER TELLS OF HIS TROUBLES.

THE Dublin rebels have done old Tom Maguire, the blind song writer, a very bad turn.

Up to Easter Monday he and his concertina were welcome in all the best bars; now, owing to a misunderstanding, they want neither Tom nor his ballads.

To-day the fallen star told his troubles to a *Star* representative at his home in Southwark Bridge Road.

"I am a Redmondite, a strong Home Ruler, and proud to be a member of the British Empire," he said. "And yet I am suspected of being in favour of those dirty rebels, who have gone and spoiled everything.

"And it's all because of my song, 'Bold Robert Emmet.' But in Emmet's days there was reason for what they did, while these rebels are absolutely mad.

"And just as I had got my new ballad, 'A Brand New Irish Nation,' in print, too," he added regretfully, "I have had to borrow £3 to get 3,000 of my new songbook printed, and now I cannot offer them."

The Star representative endeavoured to cheer up the old song writer. The public would not be likely to desert him when they knew he was on the side of law and order.

Tom produced the new ballad to show what he thought of Ireland's chances before the rebels began their campaign. It is worth giving in full, especially the chorus :

Children of Erin, return to thy nation,
A new day is dawning, we have not hoped in vain ;
Bright are the prospects of the new generation,
The star of Hibernia will shine once again.
So sang a bard with tender devotion,
As he played on his harp, down by the seashore ;
And watched the white sails glide o'er the blue ocean,
To bring home the exile to wander no more.

CHORUS.

Won't it be a grand revue, a mighty celebration ?
Won't it be a grand revue, dancing in rotation ?
Whack for doodle, filleloo, whack for doodle, filleloo,
Whack for doodle, filleloo,
For the brand new Irish nation.

When the war is over, the King we admire
Will come back to Erin on Parliament day ;
Bells will be ringing, and big guns will fire,
And pipers and drummers will batter away,
Ulster and Leinster shall love one another,
Like Munster and Connaught, united be ;
Wherever we wander, old Ireland's our Mother,
Then take off our hats to the gem of the sea.

If Tom required a testimonial—which he doesn't—"A Brand New Irish Nation" would supply it. But he knows from past experience how fickle and unreasoning the public are in these matters.

"It's not the first time I have suffered like this," he said. "I had a fine printing business in Preston, where I printed all my own songs when the Phoenix Park affair happened, and the Lancashire and Yorkshire people boycotted me so much that I had to shut up shop, although, of course, I had nothing whatever to do with the murders, and didn't approve of them."

"The fall of Parnell also did me a lot of harm, although I was not then a street vendor, but a singer of Irish songs on the music-halls."

Tom was once a man of standing in the halls, and his songs used to be published by the best houses with all the glory of coloured title-pages. Then he wrote not only Irish patriotic songs, but ballads, to suit all characters.

"I helped to make such people as Marie Lloyd, Kate Carney, Pat Feeney, Rich and Rich, the Two Macnaughtens, with my songs," he said proudly.

Three of his successes were "The Soldier's Letter," "Spare the Old Mud Cabin," and "Strangers are Better at Times than Your Own."

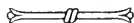
He tells an interesting story of how he began to sell his ballads in public-house bars.

"I was playing my concertina in Ludgate Hill one cold wet night about twenty years ago," he remarked, "when someone said to me, 'What are you doing here, my poor man? Why not play at the public-house doors, and you would then have a chance.' 'But they would not allow me,' I said. 'Oh, yes, they would,' said the man, taking my arm and leading me to the door of a pub close by. 'And here's sixpence for you.'

"Before he went away I said to the kind man, 'Who are you? Are you the potman here?'

"'Oh, dear no,' he said. 'I'm the Bishop of London.'"

—*The Star*, May 6th.



Blind and Works at Housewrecking to Make Living.

TEARS DOWN THE BUILDINGS WITHOUT MUCH AID AND PILES THE BOARDS
AND TAKES AWAY THE REFUSE.

BERKELEY, Cal., March 4.—Blindness is no serious handicap to Gerald Cloutman, of No. 2207 Ellsworth Street, housewrecker, who has not seen the bright sun since he was three years old. He graduated from the California School for the Blind and started out to make his own living. Now he daily astonishes those who know of his affliction by climbing steep roofs, detaching lumber from the most precarious positions and always coming back to safety unscathed. He is at present wrecking a house at Sixty-fourth Street and San Pablo Avenue, doing all of the work himself, and even experts can find no fault with the way the boards are aligned on the sidewalk and waste is neatly piled away.

To those who express their astonishment at his skill, Cloutman replies that a blind man can do nearly as much as anybody gifted with two seeing eyes.

Cloutman was married six months ago. He is about thirty years old. For several years he has spent the summer months in Calaveras County, where he claimed a homestead and makes a living selling brooms. In winter he plies his trade as wrecker in this city.



The Blind Soldier.

A FLASHING bayonet;
A mist of crimson light;
In blood his sun had set
And then—the night.
The summer skies were blue,
The grass green where he fell;
But the last light he knew
Was red from hell.

E. S. in *Manchester Guardian*.

College of Teachers of the Blind.

EXAMINATION, 1916.

THE 1916 examination of the College will be held on June 6th and 7th at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W. In spite of the present disturbed condition of our civil life owing to the war, the number of applicants for examination has not diminished, although there is naturally a deficiency in the number of male candidates.

HISTORICAL ESSAY COMPETITION.

As some of our correspondents appear to be unacquainted with the conditions of this competition we have pleasure in reprinting them herewith:—

1. In order to encourage research in the History of the Education of the Blind, the College desires to offer a Gold Medal for the best original Essay on the following subject:—"The History of the Education of the Blind from 1830 to 1868."

2. The competition is open to all.

3. Essays must not exceed 5,000 words in length, and should be typewritten on one side of the paper only.

4. Essays must not bear the name of the competitor, but should be distinguished by a *nom de plume* or motto. A closed envelope containing the name and address of the competitor and the *nom de plume* or motto should be forwarded with each essay.

5. Essays should be in the hands of the Hon. Registrar of the College, care of The National Institute for the Blind, not later than 1st July, 1917.

6. Essays will become the property of the College.

7. The College reserves the right to withhold the prize should no essay be, in the opinion of its Committee, of sufficient merit.

Our readers may remember that the first competition was won by Miss E. R. Scott, the Editor of the *Weekly Summary*, whose prize essay entitled "The History of the Education of the Blind prior to 1830" has been published in letterpress, and can be obtained from the National Institute, price 2d. As mentioned in our pages last month no competition is being held this year on account of our preoccupation with the war, and this decision of the committee will afford students a better opportunity for research.



GERALD AMES, the International fencer, who was one of the representatives of Britain at the Olympic Games at Stockholm, has been writing as to the possibilities of fencing as a sport and exercise for the soldiers blinded in the war. Mr. Ames assures me that blind men may become capital fencers, so very much depending on the sense of touch. "Of course," he says, "the duels would require to be one blind man against another. No use putting a blind man against a sighted man." Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, who does so much for the blind, is interesting himself in the matter.—*Ideas*, 7th April, 1916.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE MAY NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—A Naval Digression, by G. F. (*concluded*), from *Blackwood's Magazine*—How an Army is Fed, by Howard C. Felton, from *Munsey's Magazine*—Wanderings in Northern Persia, by J. A. Lee, from *The Wide World Magazine*—The Zeppelin School, by an Air Pilot.

Progress. Editorial—Matters of the Moment—The True Story of Private Grouch—Inspiration in Queer Places—Plagues of Fleas, by D. W. O. Fagan—Blinded Officers—Our French Page—Prize Competition—Correspondence—Grave and Gay—Question Box—Chess—How to take Care of the Sick at Home—Crochet—Advertisements—Supplement: The King of Ypres, a complete Story, by John Buchan.

Comrades.—Basil's Violin, by Mrs. Molesworth. Chapter I.—The Big Battalions, by G. F. Bradby—Spring Cleaning and Building, by the Editor—The Chipmunk (Unknown).

School Magazine.—The Paradise of Children, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne—Monthly Almanack—Submarine Life—Animals under Fire—The Voyage of the "Valiant," a Serial Story, by E. Le Breton Martin. Chapters IV. and V., from "The Scout."

Braille Musical Magazine.—"Musical News Comments," from *Musical News*—Our No. 11 Competition—Notes and News concerning the Blind—Our Tuner's Column—Meeting to Discuss the Publishing of More Music—Correspondence—Review—Analysis of Form of Beethoven's Pianoforte Sonatas, No. 4 (*to be continued*)—Mr. H. C. Warrilow—Insets: "Drake's Drum" (Song); No. 1 of "Songs of the Sea," by C. V. Stanford; "Summer has come, Little Children" (Part-Song), by Havergal Brian; "Ballade in F" (Piano), by C. Debussy.

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture by Dr. Justin Wilson—Annual Meeting—Official Notices—Massage Examination.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon type).—An English Woman's Adventures in the German Lines (*continued*)—A Wonderful Hammer—A Terrible Voyage—Smyrna—Our Oldest Ally—One Hundred Pounds for a Tree—Women Park Gardeners.

The next Examination for Gardner Trust Scholarships, of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., will be held from the 1st to the 3rd July inclusive. Candidates must have reached the age of 16 on or before the 1st January, 1916, must be resident in England or Wales, and make application to the Principal on or before the 20th June.

MISS CLEMENTS, qualified teacher for blind and deaf-blind, desires post as **Teacher** or a **Shorthand-Typist**. Apply 31, Sandgate Road, Brislington, Bristol.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER. Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

WANTED.—Situation as **Assistant Teacher in School for the Blind**. Experienced, good disciplinarian, musical, good references. Apply D. GILES, Frogmore, Westbury, Wilts.

The National Institute for the Blind have For Sale a number of **Goat Skin Rugs** made by a blind man. They are beautifully made and are in a variety of patterns, each measuring 69 in. by 36 in., the price being Grey Rugs, 11s.; and Black Rugs, 11s. 6d. each.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO

:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

JULY, 1916.

No. 7.

Editorial.

IN making ourselves the mouthpiece of the readers of *The Braille Review*, to offer our heartiest congratulations to Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., on the tribute paid to his untiring devotion to the sacred cause of philanthropy in the truest sense of the word, we are assuredly running little risk of anything save a most heartfelt and universal approval.

It was our privilege to become acquainted with Sir Arthur for the first time about 20 years ago, and to work under him on the editorial staff of C. Arthur Pearson Limited. In those days, of course, he had possession of his sight. Only those who were privileged to work under him can know to the full what that meant, his unfailing appreciation of work honestly done, the encouragement he was always so ready to give to struggling talent, the many acts of kindness he did by stealth, the unbounded energy he himself possessed and which conveyed itself automatically to all who were under him. Of his labours in recent years, the founding of the Fresh Air Fund, his work on the National Relief Committee, there is little we need say here. St. Dunstan's Hostel stands to-day as a lasting monument to a man who, himself a recruit in the splendid Army of the Handicapped, has found some slight recognition publicly for services that no title could make more worthy of it.

Long may he be spared to continue as President of our Institute. If ever "the work men do lives after them" will again be proved a truism that accomplished by Sir Arthur Pearson, in the face of a hitherto misnamed "affliction," will stand for all time as a shining example not only to all those similarly handicapped, but to every man and woman who is able to profit by an example of courage and determination such as his.

* * * *

We have in the course of the past few months received numberless letters from readers with suggestions for improvement and revision in British Braille. We have pleasure in publishing on page 3 suggestions for changes in "Revised Braille for Reading and Writing," Grade 2 (including Grade 1), (Seventh edition), July, 1915, suggested by the American Commission on Uniform Type, through its sub-committee for the consideration of the British Uniform Type Committee, looking towards the possible adoption of British Braille as the Uniform Type for

the blind of the English-speaking world. We publish the report exactly as received. This of course means that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the views therein expressed.



Welfare of the Blind.

THE STATE'S DUTY.

A VARIETY of subjects relating to the welfare of the blind were considered at the conference of the Scottish Outdoor Blind Teachers' Union held yesterday in the Christian Institute, Glasgow. At the meetings in the forenoon the chair was occupied by the Hon. Mrs. MacGilchrist, Mr. J. A. Black, and Mr. George S. MacLellan. Mr. John Mackenzie, Inverness, read a paper on "Home Teaching and Libraries," and a paper on "The Work of a Ladies' Auxiliary" was contributed by Miss Crichton, Glasgow. It was reported by Mr. C. W. Ness, Edinburgh, that there are 3,460 blind persons under the care of the Scottish societies, of whom 1,702 are men and 1,758 women. Of these 1,606 have been taught to read. In the united libraries there are 18,936 volumes—11,357 in the Moon system and 7,579 in the Braille. The united income was £7,463 and the expenditure £5,662, of which £4,246 was for work and benevolent purposes.

At a meeting in the afternoon, presided over by Mr. John Colville, a paper was read by Mr. J. T. Mulholland, Glasgow, on "The Relation of the State to the Blind." Mr. Mulholland held that the State should make adequate provision for the technical education of the blind as well as for their elementary instruction. He also urged that steps should be taken to ensure employment for the blind, and for State assistance being given to the incapable and the infirm. They acknowledged the good work done by the voluntary system, but the only practical solution of the problem would be found in the State recognising its duty, and organising and co-ordinating the work carried on so long by voluntary effort. Mr. William Thomson, Perth, opened the discussion on the paper, which was also taken part in by Mr. Thomas Stoddart, Glasgow, who pleaded that more might be done to help blind persons whose mental abilities fitted them for a much better position than they could attain in workshops.

Dr. A. Maitland Ramsay, Glasgow Ophthalmic Institution, read a paper at the concluding meeting on the subject of "Preventible Blindness," in the course of which he stated that 50 per cent. of blindness was preventible. Sir George T. Beatson, K.C.B., who presided, emphasised the necessity of special attention being paid to the question of child welfare. The subject of trade after the war was very important, but it must be remembered that the wealth of a nation consisted not of money, but in healthy men and women. Of the diseases which affected people the large majority were preventible, and there was no respect in which this was more striking than in the disease which led to blindness in infants.

A concert in connection with the conference was held in the evening. The programme, which included vocal and instrumental music, was sustained by blind artistes. — *Glasgow Herald*, June 10th.

Changes in "Revised Braille for Reading and Writing."

"GRADE 2 (INCLUDING GRADE 1), (SEVENTH EDITION), JULY, 1915."

Suggested by the Commission on Uniform Type, through its Sub-Committee, for the consideration of the British Uniform Type Committee, looking toward the possible adoption of British Braille as the Uniform Type for the blind of the English-speaking world, March 30th, 1916.

IN its endeavour to secure one system of reading and writing for the blind, the Uniform Type Committee of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, after years of study and experiment, was convinced that the three punctographic systems,—New York Point, American Braille, British Braille,—are so nearly equal, so far as their general fitness to fulfil the purposes for which they were designed is concerned, as to make it impossible to demonstrate the absolute superiority of any one over that of the other two. Convinced, further, that the chief defects in each system are of so fundamental a nature as to render their elimination impossible, without causing greater detriment to the system than their presence occasions, the Committee sought to solve the problem by devising a system which should embody as few as possible of the known punctographic defects; while retaining intact all features which have successfully stood the test. This system, known as Standard Dot, does not seem, however, to possess sufficient practical advantage over the existing types,—New York Point, American Braille, British Braille,—to command confidence on the part of the profession, in Great Britain, either in the possibility or the wisdom of its adoption as the Uniform Type. Should this prove to be true, the American committee feels that, if we are to secure the Uniform Type, the problem must be approached at an angle entirely different from that hitherto employed.

Instead of striving, as heretofore, to secure for the blind that type which would enable them to do the most efficient and greatest amount of work in a given time, we must now seek the adoption of that one of the three systems,—New York Point, American Braille, British Braille,—upon which it may prove possible to bring the authorities among the blind of the English-speaking world to agree. Approached from this angle, the problem is essentially a politico-economic one,—political, in that it consists in an attempt to persuade the advocates of the different systems to abandon, for the sake of uniformity, that which they believe to be the best system; economic, in that it seeks by eliminating the necessity of duplicating texts in three systems to multiply the money available for embossing books; while, on the other hand, it involves a tremendous loss in embossed books and plates, as well as in machinery necessarily rendered useless by the change. This sacrifice would be even greater were Standard Dot to displace all three of the systems; and the advantages claimed for this system, even by its most ardent advocates, do not seem, in the opinion of the profession at large, to compensate for the loss which its adoption would thus involve.

If, as is proverbially affirmed, "possession is nine points of the law," the mind should turn at once to British Braille as a possible

Uniform Type. With the exception of the United States and portions of Canada, British, or European Braille is, to all intents and purposes, the only system of reading and writing for the blind of the civilised world. When, however, we consider that it is more expensive to emboss books in this system than in either New York Point or American Braille; that the American systems conform much more closely to the approved literary and letter press practices than is the case with the British system as currently embossed, and that a knowledge of either of the American systems, due to the comparatively small number and unambiguous nature of the characters employed, is more easily acquired than is a knowledge of British Braille; we hesitate to make choice of British Braille as the Uniform Type, and earnestly wish that its strategic position were held by one of the American systems.

Since, however, it is impossible to believe that such strategic advantage can be secured by either of the American systems, and since it is equally impossible of belief that the cost of embossing in British Braille can ever become as economic as it is in either of the American systems, it remains to consider.

First: Whether the British can be induced, in the use of their system, so to conform to the practices of ordinary print as to make British Braille a correct instrument of education, and an adequate means of acquainting the blind with the authorised practices of the system used by their seeing friends.

Second: Whether the number and ambiguous nature of the characters or signs used in British Braille can be sufficiently reduced as to make a knowledge of that system approximately as easy to acquire as is a knowledge of either of the American systems.

To this end, suspending its efforts for the time being on behalf of Standard Dot, the Commission on Uniform Type, through its Subcommittee, respectfully submits, for the consideration of the British Uniform Type Committee, the following suggestions, with the hope that British Braille may be so improved as to make its adoption as the Uniform Type not only possible, but also desirable.

GRADE I.

(Note. References are to the Seventh Edition of "Revised Braille for Reading and Writing, Grade II, including Grade I.")

1st. That all literature embossed in British Braille be as completely capitalised as in literature for the seeing, on the ground that the power to capitalise correctly becomes subconscious only upon seeing it habitually so done in one's daily experience, especially in reading. (General Rule 10.)

2nd. That the use of the Letter Sign, dots 4-6 (General Rule 13-i) be discontinued as an index of Roman Numbers, and in any other connection where the use of the capital sign, dots 2-6 (General Rule 11) conforms more closely to letter-press practice.

3rd. That the use of the Poetry-line Sign, dots 2-4-5, be discontinued, since full capitalisation renders it superfluous. (General Rule 5, a to f inclusive).

4th. That the use of dot 5, as tending to confuse the correct use of the apostrophe, also dot 5, be discontinued as the sign of abbrevia-

tion, and that the sign for full stop, dots 3-4-6, be used in its stead as conforming strictly to letter-press practice. (General Rules 1 and 2.)

5th. That the use of the sign 2-6, as likely to be confused with fraction-line sign, dots 2-5 (General Rule 13-d) be discontinued as the decimal-point, and that the sign for full-stop, dots 3-4-6, be used in its stead as conforming strictly to ordinary ink-print practice. (General Rule 13-f.)

6th. That the dots 3-5-6 be used to indicate both the opening and the close of inverted comma or commas, and that this character be discontinued as the sign of interrogation. (General Rules 1 and 6, also Page 5, letter-press edition.)

7th. That dots 4-5-6 be used as the sign of interrogation, and that this character be discontinued as the sign of the close of inverted comma or commas. (Page 5, letter-press edition.)

Note. Suggestions embodied in 6 and 7 reduce the number of separate signs to be learned by one, and though not in exact harmony, so far as the quotation marks are concerned, with letter-press usage, are in strict accord with the practice of typists, and hence of practical value to the blind.

Conformity with the foregoing suggestions would bring the text of matter embossed in British Braille into much closer accord with the forms and practices of letter-press, remove several difficulties encountered by the learner in his effort to acquire a correct knowledge of the system, and, incidentally, by the elimination of rules and notes relating to the points in question, save upwards of 10 per cent. in the embossed edition, and upwards of 13 per cent. in the letter-press edition, of the space required for the actual exposition of Grade I.

GRADE II.

Changes heretofore suggested in Grade I are understood to apply, in so far as the points in question are not affected by special rules, with equal force to Grade II, and it is further suggested:—

8th. That contractions forming parts of words be regarded as syllables or parts of syllables, and that the use of contractions to overlap the syllables of the word be discontinued, on the ground that such practice reduces the value of the system as a correct instrument of education. (Rules for Grade II., 14.)

9th. That the practice of doubling the letters b, c, d, f, and g, by placing them on the lower level, be discontinued, on the ground that such practice usually violates the principle of correct syllabification, is otherwise of little economic value, introduces equivocation with the corresponding upper-level forms, and needlessly adds to the rules and regulations, a knowledge of which is necessary to a complete mastery of the system. (Rules for Grade II., 4.) Note. For influence of level on time and accuracy values of characters, see Fifth Biennial Report of the Uniform Type Committee of the A. A. I. B., App. B.

10th. That sequences of word signs without separation, such as, *ofthe*, *andwith*, *hymore*, *tosome*, be discontinued, on the ground that the practice is out of harmony with letter-press usage, and burdens the system with unnecessary rules and exceptions. (Rules for Grade II., 7 and 9.)

11th. That abbreviated words, after the manner of word signs, be used only for the whole words for which they stand, on the ground that their use in combination leaves too much to the judgment of the embosser as to what will or will not prove a stumbling block to the reader, and that abbreviated words affected by changes herein suggested be adjusted in accordance with such changes.

12th. That the lower-level contractions for *to*, dots 3-4-5, *into*, dots 4-5-3-4-5, and *by*, dots 4-5-6, be suppressed because of their equivocal nature and the artificial manner in which they must be used: and that dots 2-3-6 be used to stand for *to*, dots 1-3-6 for *by*, and dots 4-5, followed without separation by dots 2-3-6, for *into*; and that these contractions be subject to the rules governing other word signs. (Rules for Grade II., 8, 9, 13. Also Fifth Biennial Report of the Uniform Type Committee, App. B.)

13th. That the lower-level contraction for *were*, dots 3-4-5-6, be suppressed because of its equivocal nature, and that dots 1-2-3-4-6 be used in its stead as more suggestive of the word "were." (Lines 4 and 5, also page 11, col. 1. Also Fifth Biennial Report of the Uniform Type Committee, App. B.)

14th. That, because of their equivocal nature, their low economic value, and the consequent undue burden which they place upon the memory, the word signs for *child*, dots 1-6, *enough*, dots 3-6, and *still*, dots 2-5, be wholly suppressed. (Lines 4, 5, 6; page 11, col. 1. Also Fifth Biennial Report of the U. T. C. App. B. and C.)

15th. That the following 17 initial compound contractions, which show respectively less than two hundredths of 1 per cent. in recurrence, and are represented by characters of comparatively low time and accuracy values, be wholly suppressed from the system, on the ground that they place a burden upon the memory far in excess of the advantage gained by their use:

Christ, cannot, father, God, Jesus, Lord, mother, name, right, spirit, unto, word, world, young, character, those, whose. (Page 10, cols. 2, 3, 4. Also Fifth Biennial Report of the U. T. C., App. B. and C.)

In conclusion we respectfully submit:—

1st. The foregoing suggestions are made with the view so to simplify and strengthen British Braille without impairing its structure, as to lighten the burden, now far too great, imposed upon both teacher and pupil by the necessity of mastering a multitude of rules and exceptions.

2nd. That in so far as the text of British Braille can be made, without detriment to the system itself, to correspond strictly to that of ink-print, just so far will it become a correct instrument of instruction and an adequate substitute for ink-print.

3rd. That since the 20 contractions herein suppressed represent a total saving in space of less than three tenths of 1 per cent., and since the characters standing for them are of such low speed and accuracy value, their suppression is of little moment to the habitual reader, while it moves a tremendous obstacle from the path of the learner. This fact should be of particular interest just now when so many men, blinded by the war, are struggling to acquire a knowledge of Braille.

4th. That the characters herein suggested as substitutes for the contractions now used for to, into, by, and were, possess a much higher speed and accuracy value than those now in use, and that the elimination of the lower-level forms greatly increases the speed and accuracy values of the corresponding upper-level forms, while the suppression of rules and exceptions relating to the use of these lower signs is a distinct stride towards simplicity.

5th. That the American Committee on Uniform Type is disposed to believe that acquiescence on the part of the British Uniform Type Committee in the foregoing suggested changes in British Braille will lead to the adoption of that system as the Uniform Type of the English-speaking world.

6th. That, in the event of an agreement upon a uniform type, the American Committee suggests the establishment of a suitable international committee with authority to settle all matters of detail relative to the type question, and earnestly urges that the British Committee take steps looking towards the creation of such an international authority on matters relating to embossed types.

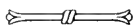
Respectfully submitted March 30th, 1916, in response to the request of the British Uniform Type Committee, March 2nd, 1916.

Sub-committee,

O. H. BURRITT, *Chairman.*

M. C. MIGEL,

H. R. LATIMER, *Secretary.*



The Rhythmic Method of Musical Training.

A most interesting and instructive lecture on the above subject was given by Dr. Yorke Trotter, assisted by his pupils, at the National Institute, on Tuesday, May 30th. The pupils, whose ages varied from 8 to about 15, were first given short pieces of music to memorise in an adjacent room and without the aid of an instrument, and while they were absent Dr. Trotter gave some account of his method of training. The children then returned and played the pieces they had memorised. Some of the younger children did not manage to get quite through their pieces, very likely on account of nervousness, but the result as a whole was highly creditable. Then Dr. Trotter, and afterwards the writer of this notice, gave the children a fragment of melody to complete and to harmonise. They did this also outside the hall, and the result showed a very good appreciation of balance in the phrases, and a musical realisation of natural harmonies. In constructing melodies from a rhythm which was clapped only, the children were also very good, while they appeared to special advantage in the ear tests given them, odd notes struck on the piano being named with the greatest promptitude, and chords being described without the slightest hesitation. Not only did the pupils recognise quite readily the chords struck, but they also sang a series of three-part chords, each chord being sounded on the piano and echoed by the children. Altogether the demonstration admirably illustrated Dr. Trotter's contention that it is

possible to apply to music the method which finds expression in the case of language in the saying, "If you want to learn French, go to France and speak it." In music this means providing the pupil with ample opportunities of doing something, however small, in the way of composition, first in constructing melodies and then in adding harmonies to these and other melodies. This plan not only stimulates musical feeling, but it adds enormously to a pupil's interest in his musical studies, and we could only wish that such methods of cultivating the ear and rousing the musical instincts had been in vogue in our student days. The lecture was well attended, and it was evident from the expressions of appreciation that all present took a very keen interest in the achievements of the children.

H. C. WARRILOW,
Director of Music at the National Institute.



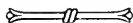
Institution for the Chinese Blind, Shanghai.

WE have received a most interesting account of the opening ceremonies at the new building of the Institute for the Chinese Blind in Shanghai. The School was founded some years ago by Dr. John Fryer, and is now managed by a strong body of trustees and a mixed Chinese and foreign committee. A most extraordinary demonstration of the results of the preliminary training is set forth in the report.

At the demonstration some twenty boys took part, and the interest and vigour with which they went through the athletic programme came as a revelation to all whose previous acquaintance with native blind had been only such as may be made in the streets of the Settlement or in the villages out in the country. The boys were first seen swarming down ladders to escape from a mythical fire. They then gave an exhibition of dumb-bell exercises to music, and of what was modestly described on the programme as "Foot Exercises," also to music, the said exercises being of so lively a nature and so eminently enjoyable that in time they might serve as a basis for professional dancing or the ecstatic lissomness of the Irish jig. From this wonder to the next was but a step, and then one after another of these blind boys were seen turning somersaults, sometimes over benches, as though to the manner born. Their "Hurdle Race" consisted in taking jumps over a series of seats placed at measured distances, two boys competing at a time, and every movement being watched with breathless interest by the assembly. A tug-of-war between teams representing Kiangsu and Chekiang provinces, two 50-yd. sprints and a frog race completed the physical display on which we have dwelt with some detail for a purpose. Everybody who has ever had experience with the untaught blind knows how they shrink from attempting new things. The fear is natural, but must be overcome if a good foundation is to be laid for further advance. Hence, in addition to the necessity of physical exercise for the preservation of robust health, there is the desirability of gaining victories over a diffidence due to lack of sight. The first triumph of this kind is perhaps the

hardest to secure, for with every success confidence grows, and in the end much of the old feeling of helplessness vanishes, and a most healthy reaction sets in, which is plainly visible on the faces of those who have gone sufficiently far in their course, and is noticeable to some extent after even a few months' training. Of work of every description, the modelling, mat-work, etc., etc., it is unnecessary to speak.

But of the mental and moral training, and of the great outlook which lies before the Institution, a few more words are desirable. The indoor programme comprised half-a-dozen musical numbers, simple pieces of music played on an American organ with correctness and taste, one flute solo with organ accompaniment, and three vocal numbers. All these showed a mastery of correct intonation not always to be found amongst Chinese performers, to whom the half tones of the diatonic scale are sometimes a difficulty. But in days of small things immensity of promise often outweighs the value of present performance. It is so here. "The things that are seen are temporal: the things that are not seen are eternal." The senior student of the Institution, in an excellent speech delivered in good clear English, made it quite plain that for him at least the hopeless mental outlook of the ordinary Chinese blind has vanished for ever. As he said, using a striking phrase, "the eyes of the fingers opened the eyes of the mind"; and, given sufficient literature turned into the Braille system, there remains no reason why he and his fortunate fellow-students should not grow in mental and moral strength as they have grown in physical power from the practice of a well designed system of exercise. Dr. Wu Ting-Fang, who himself had found benefit in his early days from the instruction of Dr. Fryer, then in Hongkong, expressed the universal admiration of the company for what they had seen, and there is little doubt that as the Institution becomes better known it will receive the support, Chinese and foreign, which it deserves. The present number of pupils might be multiplied in the existing quarters without addition to the staff, but with the further advantage that a wider selection for higher training would at once be secured. For it must never be forgotten that the uplifting of the Chinese blind must mainly be achieved by the Chinese themselves.



Concert Hall for the Blind.

THE opening of the Concert Hall of The National Institute for the Blind yesterday completed the building in Great Portland Street, which the King and Queen opened two years ago.

The hall is an important addition for the purposes of the musical side of the Institute's activities, and it contains an admirable organ, built according to the specification of that at the Royal College of Organists, so that blind students may practise on an instrument similar to the one on which they are examined for their diplomas. Mr. W. Wolstenholme played organ solos by himself and another blind organist, Mr. Hollins. The rest of the programme consisted of songs by Miss Susan Strong, Miss Grainger-Kerr, Mr. John Booth, and Mr. Plunket Greene, violin solos from Mr. Sammons, and a recitation from Mr. H. B. Irving.—*The Times*, June 21st.

Dinner to Sir Arthur Pearson.

WORK FOR THE BLIND.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON was entertained at a small informal dinner at the Savoy Hotel last night by a few old friends to congratulate him on the well-deserved honour he has recently received.

Lord Burnham, Lord Northcliffe, and Mr. H. A. Gwynne each sent letters of sincere regret at their enforced absence, and all appreciation of the splendid work which Sir Arthur is carrying out.

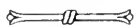
Lord Northcliffe wrote :—

“ I would have been with you to-night, but Pearson knows that many years ago I was ordered to do my work by daylight and to use artificial light rarely. I am therefore obliged to commence my day when wise men are asleep. It is a great disappointment not to be able to be with him on this much too long-deferred occasion. He and I were boys when we first knew each other. We have been in friendly conflict most of the time since, until that time came to him which would have cast most men down. The other day I found him in his wonderful Palace of the Blind at St. Dunstan's as cheery and courageous as he was when he set out on the great career that he has made for himself.

“ Pearson has been one of the great vitalisers of the profession to which he and I belong. His staffs have always been cheery, optimistic, and devoted to him. As they were in Fleet Street, so they are at St. Dunstan's. I know that he will have a great and affectionate reception to-night, and he deserves that and everything the world can give him, for he has given much more than he has ever received.”

The letter from Lord Burnham contained the following :—

“ No honour could be better deserved than the baronetcy conferred upon your guest. If he had done nothing else, his heroic efforts to improve the lot of those who suffer from the same infirmity as he does would have amply earned it. It is not under-rating the great work that has been done for the education and assistance of the blind before his time by several famous institutions, if one says with confidence that he has been the first man—to use the favourite terms of the day—‘ to organise and co-ordinate ’ all the various activities, and, in connection with the war, to provide the best means of answering the special and urgent call of our maimed soldiers and sailors. Nobody could have accomplished what he has done unless he had learned by his own training and experience what it meant to command public sympathy by public understanding. He is himself a master of modern methods of publicity, and he has given the free benefit of his power and knowledge to those who suffer from the same disability. Nothing could be finer, not only in its results, but in the force of the example of one who has faced and conquered the depression that has been in the past the greatest difficulty of all.”—*The Times*, June 21st.



J. Lloyd Johnstone, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and Norman Webb have been appointed Masseurs to the Hammersmith Military Hospital.

First British Columbia School for Blind Opened.

THE first public school for the instruction of blind children in British Columbia was opened in Vancouver this morning at the home of Mrs. C. E. Burke, 1238, Melville Street. For some time the Western Association for the Blind have been urging upon the provincial educational authorities the necessity for making some provision of this kind for blind children.

The new school is directly under the control of the provincial educational department acting through Municipal School Inspector J. S. Gordon. Children from any part of British Columbia are eligible for entry free of all cost for education and maintenance. The school is the first and only institution of its kind in the province. The nearest similar establishment is at Brandon.

There are only four pupils enrolled at present, two from Vancouver and two from Victoria, but it is expected that as the institution and its work become better known more pupils will be forthcoming.

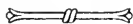
At the school this morning work was in full swing, and it would indeed be a hard-hearted person whose compassion would not have been aroused at the sight of the children with their listening eyes and fingers that see.

The subjects to be taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, modelling, music and singing, and by way of showing that sightless eyes and a sweet voice go together, Doris, one of the pupils, sang a pretty little song all about her dolly and a show man.

Instead of the alphabet they learn the "braillette." This consists of a board containing numerous sets of small holes, into which the children put little round-headed nails and make letters, thus learning how to read the Braille or raised printing in the text books.

Mrs. Burke herself is blind and has had lengthy experience of teaching blind children in Australia and England. She explains that in the curriculum of the school special attention is to be paid to finger training, which is considered of the first importance in the training of the blind.

Ordinary boys and girls can learn what animals are like by seeing them, and the girls can learn domestic economy in their homes, but with blind children it is different; they have to be taught by touch. For that reason Mrs. Burke would greatly appreciate the gift of a Noah's ark with lots of animals in it, and a doll-house with which to teach the girls' domestic work.—*The Daily Province*, Vancouver, British Columbia May 1, 1916.



Results of Massage Examination,

HELD MAY-JUNE, 1916.

Private Thomas Milligan ...	...	...	68 per cent.
Private William G. Sewell ...	...	...	63 ..
Quarter-Master Sergt. Mayell ...	...	...	62 ..
Sergt. Woods ...	...	...	62 ..
Private Albert V. Law ...	...	...	62 ..
Private Albert J. Woollen ...	...	...	61 ..
Private Edward Bates ...	...	...	60 ..
Private Herbert W. Kirby ...	...	...	56 ..

Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility of the views of his correspondents.]

BRITISH BRAILLE.

DEAR SIR,—I have been greatly interested for months past in the Correspondence pages of *The Braille Review* on the subject of "British Braille *versus* Standard Dot." I am very glad, as a sighted Braille reader and writer with some blind friends, to see the antagonism shown to any material alteration in our present system. I agree with some correspondents, however, that there might be a few improvements or additions made.

Shortly after the introduction in 1868 of the excellent Braille into England by my late friend, Dr. T. R. Armitage, with his kind help I learnt to read and write this system. I found it most useful and a great boon for the blind, and have used it for many years in correspondence with some blind.

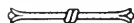
Since that I find that the Revised Braille is a great improvement and boon, and that the Grade II. is the best, as it is mainly used, whilst the Grade III. is most useful and convenient to some more advanced students.

I find the Grade II. contractions most useful and convenient, except in compound words, or if it is likely to prove a hindrance to the reader.

There are some contracted signs used as prefixes, or the first syllables of words, but when I am embossing I often feel the want of a sign as the prefix *re*, which is really the first syllable, and frequently used. I find in the Grade II. there is a contraction *ov*, which is used in the Grade III. as *re* for a prefix only, as well as for *ov*: therefore this prefix contraction *re* might be introduced into the Grade II. and might prove most successful, because the contraction *ov* is seldom used at the beginning of a word, for there are only three words which begin with *ov*, viz., owe, owl, and own.

I agree with Mr. Ford about the Rule 2 in the Grade II. relating to the contraction for *ea*, which should only be used when it forms one sound, and not overlap syllables. Ex.: *Reap*, *Reach*, *Read*, *Reason*, *Realm*, &c. But the contracted prefix *re* as mentioned above should be used, instead of the contraction *ea*. Ex.: *Reappear*, *Reassemble*, *React*, *Real*, *Reanimate*, *Reassure*, &c.

I am satisfied with the Revised Braille in general, but I should like to see a few improvements or additions made and decided upon by the British Braille Committee, who might cause an appendix to be printed and published as an additional pamphlet to each of the Braille primers already published.—Yours faithfully, WALTER J. CHAPMAN,
June 21st, 1916.



STORIES FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, selected and arranged by Mrs. Illingworth, published by Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester, 1s. 6d. per copy. These stories are in Grade I., and would be very popular amongst blind children.

Lord French Talks to Blind Soldiers.

"YOU AND I FOUGHT TOGETHER FOR OUR COUNTRY."

FIELD-MARSHAL VISCOUNT FRENCH visited Sir Arthur Pearson's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, yesterday, and spent nearly two hours talking with the inmates and watching them at their work. Many of the men had served under him in Flanders.

A pathetic feature of the hostel to the visitor is the youth of the majority of the inmates. One lad who, under a lady helper was learning typewriting, had only just passed his 17th birthday. Yet the dominating impression is the amazing cheerfulness of everybody in the hostel, a feature commented on frequently by Lord French in his tour with Sir Arthur Pearson.

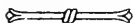
One of the men who heard an exclamation of pity laughed cheerfully. "It's not so bad," was his comment. "What I thank God for is that I am not paralysed or bedridden like some of the poor chaps. Think how awful it must be not to be able to get about!"

Out on the lawn two others were wrestling with the zest of schoolboys.

Lord French appeared most interested in the workshops, typing-room and fowl-rooms. In the typing-room a graceful reference to Lord French's visit was taken down by a Braille shorthand writer as fast as Sir Arthur Pearson could dictate it, and transcribed on an ordinary typewriter at a speed that would do credit to many an ordinary typist.

"You and I," Lord French told the men, "fought together, and I cannot tell you how sorry I am at your hard luck. But you fought magnificently for your country—no soldiers ever fought* better—and that should be some consolation to you. Nor can I tell you how pleased I am to see you looking so well and cheerful, and to see how splendidly you are getting on with your new work."

On the lawn the Field-Marshal decorated with the D.C.M. Sergeant John Frederick Leeman, 8th Lancers. Sergeant Leeman, who has only just passed his 20th birthday, was wounded three times in France and four times mentioned in dispatches. He and two other men bombed the enemy out of trenches covering 250 yards, and then held the position for three and a half hours until another company relieved them. One of Leeman's companions, Corporal Sharp, got the V.C.—*The Daily Chronicle*, June 22nd 1916.



A St. Dunstan's Wedding.

A QUIET but pretty wedding took place at St. Marylebone Parish Church on June 8th, when Gunner Edward Bates, of the Royal Horse Artillery, was married to Miss Ethel Coales. Among many war weddings this ceremony stood out rather conspicuously, the bridegroom being one of those brave men who lost his sight in the present war whilst running his gun into action. The bride, who was given away by Mr. Richard King Huskinson, of *The Tatler*, looked charming in a

white serge coat and skirt, with which she wore a delightful hat of fugitive pink trimmed with white marguerites; she carried a beautiful bouquet of white lilies of the Nile and white sweetpeas, and in the corsage of a white blouse was noticed a horse-shoe of white heather. The bride was attended by a best-girl, Miss Beatrice Doward, who looked handsome in a navy coat and skirt, wearing a leghorn hat trimmed with pink marguerites and saxe blue ribbon; her bouquet was comprised of white irises and pink "la France" roses. The duties of best man were ably carried out by Mr. Pettit. A guard of honour was formed by the nurses from St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, and the "Wedding March" and incidental music were rendered by Mr. Percy Linney Way, F.R.C.O., who is himself a blind organist.

* * * *

Honorary Distinction.

WE learn with pleasure that M. Marcel André, known as André Bellot, poet, of 19, Rue de l'Enclos-Rey, Nîmes, has just received the certificate for literary merit, and the medal of the Order of Monosaraphon, the royal order of Cambodia, which his Majesty Sisowath has graciously accorded him in recompense for his poetic works. This very high distinction, which is an honour to French poetry, is at the same time a mark of the profound sympathy of Cambodia for France in these hours of struggle and of courage. Our most hearty congratulation to the laureate.—Extract from *L'Eclair*, of 1st June, 1916.

* * * *

THERE is a young gentleman resident on the Cheshire side of the Mersey who has been blind from birth, but who, with the aid of the educational advantages now available for the sightless, has trained his other faculties to so high a degree of perfection that he is able to move about in public places unattended, and with a freedom which almost belies his affliction. This apparent immunity from physical disability led the other day to an amusing rencontre. During one of his walks on business intent—for he is a busy man—he was accosted by a recruiting sergeant with the pointed inquiry, "Don't you think, young man, it's about time you were in the Army?" The blind man felt that no such compliment had ever before been paid him, or the system of training which he has undergone.—*Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury*, May 15th.

* * * *

Some Recent Braille Publications. 2s. 6d. EACH VOL.

WESTWARD HO! The famous novel by Charles Kingsley. 8 vols.

CATRIONA. Novel by R. L. Stevenson. 3 vols.

KIDNAPPED. Novel by R. L. Stevenson. 2 vols.

THE FOURTH PLAGUE. An exciting mystery story by Wallace. 2 vols.

HITTING THE DARK TRAIL. The wonderful story of a blind man's struggle against his handicap, by Hawkes. 1 vol.

THE STOLEN BACILLUS. An amusing and exciting story, by H. G. Wells. 2 vols.

THE VOYAGE OF THE BEAGLE. Charles Darwin's famous book. 7 vols.

POEMS by Matthew Arnold. 3 vols.

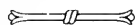
THE LIFE OF THE BEE. Maurice Maeterlinck. 2 vols.

The College of Teachers of the Blind.

RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION, 1916.

As the result of the examination of the College held this year at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, the following have been awarded the certificate with honours in the subjects named:—

Bancroft, Nellie, Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
 Daugherty, Esther Mona, Honours in Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Physical Training (1915) and Theory of Education (1916).
 Deacon, Florence May, Honours in Practical Braille.
 Dixon, Janet Agnes, Honours in Arithmetic.
 Fison, Kathleen, Honours in Arithmetic (1915), Practice of Teaching (1916).
 Freeman, Rosina, Honours in Theoretical and Practical Braille.
 Marsh, Winifred Mary, Honours in Arithmetic.
 Meaby, Violet May, Honours in Practical Teaching (1915), Arithmetic (1916).
 Meeson, Elsie May, Honours in Arithmetic.
 Owen, Louie, Honours in Theoretical Braille (1914), Arithmetic (1915).
 Sumner, Peter Sydney, Honours in Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Theory of Education.
 Wilson, Florence Winifred, Honours in Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching.



The Blinded Soldier's Dream.

WRITING in *The Daily Mail* on "Women War Poets," the Editor of the Poetry Review notes the rare quality and beauty of the war verse produced by women, and gives as a specimen the following poem by a Sheffield girl, concerning which a very learned lady asked if it had not been actually written by a blinded soldier :

There's a misty sea-girt island in the sunset-haunted west ;
 I can see it in my wounded dreams of home.
 I can see the dwindling hedgerows where the sparrow builds her nest,
 And the grass-land with its throw of daisied foam.
 Oh ! there's spring upon the island, and the greening lures me back
 To mysterious meres and woodways in the west,
 . . . They have stripped my manhood from me, they have stretched me on the
 rack . . .
 Take me home, a blinded, broken thing, to rest !
 I can never see the island with its fields of sheeted gold
 And the wisps of sunset drifting in the west ;
 Darkness drowns the dim green valleys and the silent hills of old
 And the hedges where the sparrow builds her nest.
 Let me put my blind eyes down among the bluebells and the grass,
 Let me feel the brimming coolness on my brow ;
 Let me touch the dewy bracken where the dreamful shadows pass :
 I have bled for England ; let her heal me now !

—*Edinburgh Evening News*, May 27th, 1916.

* * * *

Henshaw's Blind Asylum.

HENSHAW'S Blind Asylum has just received an order from the King and Queen for fancy cane chairs. Most of the chairs will be made by a man who is not only blind, but deaf and dumb also.

The letter from the Inspector of the Palace, Windsor Castle, accompanying the order, and addressed to Mr. W. H. Illingworth, superintendent, says:—

"I am commanded to inform you that the King is desirous that your work shall be recognised, and therefore ask you to supply six of the chairs at your early convenience. *Manchester Guardian*, June 23rd.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE JUNE NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—As Others See, by Boyd Cable, from *Cornhill Magazine*—Omsk, in Peace, by Mrs. Alan Lethbridge, from *The Outlook*—The Discontented Squirrel, by W. H. Hudson, from *Chambers's Journal*—The Seven Gifts, by Edmund John, from *English Review*—In the Electrical Department of a Great Hospital, from *Chambers's Journal*—Watching Russians Fight—Battleships wear Undergarments.

Progress.—Editorial—Matters of the Moment—Biographies of the Blind: William Wolstenholme—Joffre (Lord Northcliffe)—Mechanical Servants—Our French Page—Our Prize Competition—Correspondence—Report of The National Institute for the Blind for 1915—Keep your eye on Paisley—Grave and Gay—Question Box—Chess—Advertisements—Inset: Map of lower Mesopotamia—Supplement: "The Gold Bug," "Edgar Allen Poe" (*to be continued*).

Comrades.—Basil's Violin, by Mrs. Molesworth. Chapter II.—A Dream of Summer, by John Greenleaf Whittier—Summer Guests, by the Editor (in Grade I.)—A Little Out-Patient, a True Story told by K. I. S.

School Magazine.—The Three Golden Apples, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*to be continued*)—Jellicoe's Men—Monthly Almanack—The Cat, by Professor Herbert A. Strong, from *Chambers's Journal*—Insect Travellers—The Voyage of the "Valiant," a Serial Story, by E. Le Breton Martin. Chapters V. and VI., from "The Scout."

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture by Dr. Justin Wilson (*conclusion*)—Some Notes on Insect Pests, by Winifred H. Saunders—The Late Miss Gulielma Manley—For Distinguished Service—Notes by the Way—Correspondence—Official Notices.

* * * *

The Moon Magazine (in Moon type).—An English Woman's Adventures in the German Lines (*continued*)—A Terrible Voyage (*continued*)—Night Warnings—Our Fighting Frenchmen—The Truth about the new Zepps—Wonders of Liquid Fuel—Lusitania Monument—Sermons in the Dark.

MISS CLEMENTS, qualified teacher for blind and deaf-blind, desires post as **Teacher** or a **Shorthand-Typist**. Apply 31, Sandgate Road, Brislington, Bristol.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

WANTED.—Situation as **Assistant Teacher in School for the Blind**. Experienced, good disciplinarian, musical, good references. Apply D. GILES, Frogmore, Westbury, Wilts.

The National Institute for the Blind have For Sale a number of **Goat Skin Rugs** made by a blind man. They are beautifully made and are in a variety of patterns, each measuring 69 in. by 36 in., the price being Grey Rugs, 11s.; and Black Rugs, 11s. 6d. each.

Sighted Teacher seeks post in Blind School for next term. Age, qualification, etc., on application to K. FISON (Miss), Special Blind School, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Clergyman's Daughter wishes to let 2-roomed **Furnished Cottage** and receive young blind companion as **Paying Guest** for Summer Holidays. Country. References exchanged. Miss BROCKWEILL, Frenchay, Bristol.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

AUGUST, 1916.

No. 8.

Editorial.

LAST month there was a very successful exhibition of woven serges, linens, cottons, rugs, mats, and other fabrics, held at the Institute, the work being drawn from the Barclay Home, Brighton, and their branch in Edgware Road, the Oxford Weavers, the Bristol Royal Blind Asylum, The Midland Institute of Nottingham, and Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester. Messrs. Selfridge & Co. were responsible for the dressing of the front windows, and one of their most experienced saleswomen was employed for the purpose of the exhibition.

The result was in every way gratifying; if proof were wanted of what can be done to develop the working faculties of blind women and to prove their fitness to shine in the great army of useful workers, the exhibition amply fulfilled its purpose. The splendid finish of the materials, the examples of work in knitting and weaving, the varied productions of the various workshops, proved that the blind workers can do just as good work as those in full possession of their eyesight.

In the London Workshop of the Barclay Home there are twenty trained weavers employed, whose output covers a great range. It is important to realise that the prices of articles sold in this factory, and in all others, are strictly moderate. Beautifully knitted sports coats in all the newest and nicest colours are to be had for 14s. 6d., while cardigans, socks and children's jerseys are to be obtained at equally reasonable prices. All kinds of house-cloths, bath-mats and rugs, are turned out: pretty breakfast-cloths in white or cream, or interwoven with a contrasting shade, the prettiness of which the workers themselves have never seen, find a ready sale.

We are convinced that the exhibition will be the means of bringing home to many people the necessity and duty of supporting so splendid a movement.

* * * *

We feel that prominence should be given to the subjoined extract from *Truth*, of July 12th. The harpies who prey on the misfortunes of others are unfortunately always with us, and the thanks of the community are due to anyone who endeavours to bring them to book:—

“A rather ingenious charity dodge is being worked in the provinces by a concern called the Blind Aid Society, 233, Brixton Road, London, S.W. The society employs women collectors, who are provided with

boxes to solicit contributions for the purpose of helping the blind deaf and dumb to learn reading, writing and finger talk. All the society does, however, is to give away a leaflet containing particulars of a dot alphabet. The contributor is supposed to learn the alphabet, and thus be in a position to correspond with his blind friends.

"Of course, this is a mere excuse of a charity monger, which the police ought to be able to see through without the assistance of a dot alphabet. It is the enterprise of a philanthropist named Walter Blackburn, who was convicted at Old Street Police Court in 1913 for obtaining charitable contributions by fraud in connection with a bogus charity called the 'Red Cross Blind Aid Society.' Blackburn, after that conviction, changed his name to Walter and the name of his society to the 'Blind Aid Society,' engaged a band of collectors, and descended upon Brighton. There, after he had picked up about £50, he was again arrested, and eventually sentenced to six months' hard labour at the Quarter Sessions. His experience does not, however, seem to have convinced him that he is engaged in an 'unhealthy' occupation."



Blind Shorthand Writer Performs Remarkable Feat.

ROY GOLDIE TOOK 75 WORDS PER MINUTE AND TYPES 40.

BASED on the work of the Montreal School for the Blind and what could be accomplished in training and educating afflicted persons to earn their own livings, Lieut.-Col. E. B. Busted, chairman at the closing exercises of the school in Montreal West, yesterday afternoon held out a cheering message to all those afflicted, and, with special reference to those soldiers who would come back blind from the front, said that they could be taught most anything. He said that but for the fact that the things made in the industrial establishment of the Association were not marketable owing to war conditions, the school would be self-supporting.

The remarkable methods of teaching subjects such as geography, short-hand and arithmetic to blind people, and the wonderful results were demonstrated by the pupils themselves. Geography is taught by raised maps showing all the principal features of the ground, the division of the countries, the mountains, rivers, etc., and a system of shorthand is read by fingers and typewritten in the ordinary way. Exhibitions of reading, writing and gymnastics were demonstrated in the school and machine-stocking knitting, broom, whisk and basket making, chair-caning in the shop.

There were several selections by the school-orchestra and the concert programme consisted of an organ solo, four part chorus, readings, piano duets, shorthand demonstration, mandolin duet, and a dramatic sketch, "For the Red Cross," given by eight girls. That the school does a great deal along the lines laid down by the play was the announcement that over 2000 pairs of socks had been knitted by the pupils of the school and forwarded to the soldiers at the front.

During the programme a gentleman in the audience dictated a letter to a blind pupil who took this down in shorthand with as great speed as the ordinary seeing stenographer, and Florence Wilcox, aged 8, gave a reading using her fingers with more speed than the ordinary child uses his eyes. The winner of the shorthand prize, Roy Goldie, took 75 words a minute, and Elora Girard 56 words a minute, while each wrote over 40 words a minute on the typewriter.—*Montreal Daily Mail*, June 27th, 1916.



The Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS

Held at the Institution, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston, on Monday, 10th July, 1916, at 4.30 p.m. Mr. Alfred Wilson, the Chairman of the General Committee in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Hon. Secretary to read the Notice convening this Meeting. The Hon. Secretary read the Notice. The Hon. Secretary announced apologies from Mrs. Eric Carter, Miss Avins, Miss F. A. Badger, Sir George Kendrick, Mr. Henry Stainsby, Mr. R. Lloyd Gibbins, Mr. Conway Lowe.

THE CHAIRMAN: After announcing that the Annual Report and Financial Statements would be taken as read, said:—

As I think the subscribers know, we decided this year, for the sake of general economy, not to print the Report and Statement of Accounts. There are a number of typewritten copies on the table and any subscriber or friend who would like to read them will be welcome.

I propose to take the Report as read, but before I move its adoption I should like just to make a few comments on the matter in the Report itself. The year has been a very strenuous one, but on the whole it has been a year of progress. The school has been quite full all through the year. We have averaged 203 pupils. A new fact is that we have had no girls awaiting admission throughout the year. We have just had enough pupils all the year to fill the school on the girls' side. That is a new feature, and it looks as though blindness among children is becoming less frequent. For boys there have been rather fewer applications than usual, but a few have always been waiting for admission. I think we can reckon that one cause of the decrease of blindness in children is that the disease, which has been responsible for about 40 per cent. of our blind children was five years ago made compulsorily notifiable. It is the disease known as infantile ophthalmia. The figures are striking. In the last four years—that is since it was made compulsorily notifiable in 1911—in Greater Birmingham there have been 11,050 cases of infantile ophthalmia notified, and owing to prompt measures being taken only four of the children became totally blind. There was only one in 1912, and three in 1913. In the last two years out of 700 cases there were no cases of blindness due to that disease in Greater Birmingham, and as we were in the habit of having about three a year in Birmingham who lost their sight through that cause it looks as though considerable progress has been made.

In the school we have had a good many changes. All our male teachers have enlisted, the head master included, and the school is now staffed entirely with mistresses. Miss Falconer, our head mistress, is now head teacher. Although I hardly like to say so, I think the change has been in the right direction, because the school was never better staffed than it is now. Although there are no male teachers it was never better staffed than now. The classes are well arranged, there are more mixed classes, and our teachers are more highly qualified. That is partly due to the fact that the Government are paying an increased grant for each child, and that enables us to pay a higher salary, so we are able to get more fully qualified teachers.

Turning to the Trade Department, we have this year had the record turnover of £24,000 and more. The trading has been more profitable. Gradually for many years past we have been putting this Department on thorough business lines, and this last year—due to very careful costing and thorough business methods—we have been able to show a much better result than ever before. A considerable amount has been paid over to the General Fund for rent and interest on capital, for which nothing has ever been handed over before. A great deal of work has been done for the Government in one way or another in the workshops. Over £8,000 has been paid in wages and augmentation to the 169 blind people employed, which amount is £1,400 more than ever before. There is one thing that I want to mention, which I think it is always well to mention because we want to give our very best thanks for the gift, and that is the splendid amount subscribed by the workpeople and employers of Birmingham to augment the wages of the blind employed here. It is a splendid sum to be voluntarily supplied by the fully efficient workers for their less equipped comrades here. It is a very large increase over last year.

We have done no direct work for the soldiers blinded in the war, because that so far is being very efficiently done by Sir Arthur Pearson at St. Dunstan's. He believes, and I agree with him, that it is much better when men come back from the Front blinded that they have a much better chance of getting back their normal courage if they are associated with one another and have the companionship of men similarly afflicted. So they are all trained together at St. Dunstan's, and no doubt in due time they will be spread over the country, and then our chance will come to help in their after-care, and to assist them with the work they are occupied in.

I should like here to mention in passing that in the autumn Sir Arthur Pearson is going to organise a large campaign, collecting in Birmingham and in the Midlands, first of all for the after-care of these same blinded soldiers, and secondly for the blind generally, and we are arranging to co-operate heartily with The National Institute for the Blind, which is going to organise the campaign in the autumn of this year.

Now to turn to our financial position. We have a deficit of £1,763 on the year's working, and to meet that have only received in legacies the sum of £980, so we are on the wrong side for the year's work. But it has been a year of very much increased expense, and full of very great difficulty due to changes in staff, and I think our thanks—

our very warm thanks—are due to our General Superintendent for the splendid way in which he has faced the difficulties, and not only faced them, but overcome them, and these times which appeared to be threatening us with disaster have been turned to our advantage. We have gone through very deep water, and he has pulled us through, and we have finished up the year in a thoroughly efficient state in the school, the house and the trade departments. Then, too, there are those who have pulled with him. I should like to thank our staff for so loyally co-operating with him during a year of exceeding difficulty all round. It has been a strenuous year here as well as in most other places on the globe I suppose, and I think our thanks are due to Mr. Thurman for the very able way in which he has grappled with it.

MR. ARTHUR L. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the Resolution moved by the Chairman. One matter I should like to allude to, and that is the figures that have been read out resulting from the compulsory notification of that dread disease known as infantile ophthalmia. I might remind the Meeting that the action of the Medical Officer in asking the City Council to make it notifiable was taken on account of an interview your Committee had with him. As a result the matter went through the City Council with great ease, as you know, and the disease is now compulsorily notifiable all over the country. It is no small matter to look forward—and I think we may justly look forward—to a very great decrease in the number of blind children whose blindness is caused by that disease. Formerly they amounted to 40 per cent. of the total number of blind children, and if we can eradicate 35 of that 40 per cent. we shall have done a very good work.

I should like to add my testimony to what the Chairman has said with regard to Mr. Thurman. I think all business men know,—we all know the difficulty with which all trading concerns have been faced, and Mr. Thurman has managed to keep a very cheerful countenance through those difficulties, and to imbue his staff with the same spirit which animates him. I am sure we cannot say too much of the good work that has been done during the unusually hard times that we have been passing through during the last year.



A SERIES of rowing matches in which the crews were drawn from the St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blind Soldiers and the Worcester College for the Blind took place at Putney on July 12th. The soldiers proved too good for their opponents in all the events. The single sculls was won by Lieutenant Baker (Canadians), the doubles by Lieutenant Baker (Canadians) and Trooper Matheson (Australian Light Horse), the pair-oared race by Private Forbes (Royal Fusiliers), and Private Spinks (Shropshire Light Infantry), and the four-oared race by Private Tarnock (South Lancashire Regiment), Private Street (Worcester Regiment), Private Miller (Royal Naval Division), and Trooper Shaw (4th Dragoons).—*The Daily Telegraph*, July 13th.

Blind Man Founded a Town.

ANOTHER chapter of the dream of General Adam R. Johnson, the blind man who founded the town of Marble Falls, Tex., and for many years has been the chief spirit in its upbuilding, is being unfolded. It was nearly half a century ago that General Johnson arose from a hospital with the sight of both of his eyes forever gone. A federal bullet had brought total darkness to him. But the pioneer spirit still was in him and he went back to Texas from the war full of a determination to carry out his life's work in spite of the misfortune that had befallen him. In those days the territory west of Austin was the scene of frequent Indian raids and the few white settlers were in constant danger of being killed by the redskins.

General Johnson was not deterred by these dangers from making his way up the valley of the Colorado river in search of a place where he might settle and make his home. It was a trip which only the bravest man, possessed of all his faculties, would care to undertake alone. How he ever made his way along the trail in his blindness is a mystery. He was possessed of the keenest sense of touch however, and the murmur of the water of the flowing stream was an ever constant guide to him.

He finally reached the present site of Marble Falls. The sound of the roaring water came to the ears of General Johnson and he knew that the noise was made by falls in the river. He groped his way about and thoroughly examined the rock ledges which formed the natural dam. He walked and rode over the wide spreading valley and measured in his mind the probable width and length of the lake that was formed by the natural dam.

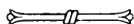
"Here I will make my home and build a town," he said.

It was General Johnson's day dream that the great falls of the Colorado river at Marble Falls should be harnessed and made to serve industrial enterprises. He has lived to see the day when this is about to be done. The natural rock dam is of the finest marble. It rises to a height of more than twenty-five feet and forms one of the most beautiful lakes in Texas. A superstructure of reinforced concrete now is being built to this dam and the water power thus obtained is to be used to generate electricity for power and lighting purposes. This electrical energy will be used to run industrial plants in Marble Falls and will be transmitted to surrounding towns. In the earlier history of the place, after the Indians had been driven out of this section, General Johnson determined that a railroad should be built to the place. He set to work and after long efforts secured a branch line of the Austin and Northwestern railroad to Marble Falls. With the same energy he induced industrial concerns to locate there.

The town owes its establishment and growth to General Johnson. It has long been known as the "blind man's town." Although the founder of the place, which now has a population of nearly 2,000 people, never has seen the beautiful site upon which it is located, he has it all pictured in his mind. He laid out the broad streets, marked the site for the business blocks and residence sections and looked after every detail of the town's establishment. Not only does he know almost every foot of the

ground upon which the town is built, but he is personally acquainted with all its inhabitants. Before the infirmities of old age began to settle upon him he would walk the streets briskly and unaided, meeting and greeting people he met. He not only knows their voices but their footsteps disclose to him the identity of many of the older inhabitants.

During the first years after he located in the upper valley of the Colorado river General Johnson had some exciting experiences with hostile Indians. Notwithstanding his total blindness he was a good shot. His keen ears could locate an Indian or a wild animal and he seemed to shoot with instinctive accuracy. He was the sole protector of his wife during those trying times and the Indians had a wholesome fear of him. It seemed that the Indians favoured as a camping spot the beautiful groves of pecan trees that covered the river valley and resented the encroachment of the white settlers. One of these groves of giant trees is located within the town limits of Marble Falls and is called Johnson Park.



Posts for Tuners.

SPECIAL attention is now being given by the National Institute to the vitally important question of After-care, and a scheme is in hand for dealing with the various branches of the subject, one of these being Pianoforte Tuning. In order to make the National Institute for the Blind Register of more practical value for Tuners, a form has been drawn up, the filling in of which will provide the information which we must have before undertaking the work of getting posts in Factories and Showrooms. All fully qualified Tuners who are seeking such posts are invited to apply for this form, which may be obtained from The National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, W.

N.B.—The immediate object is to find posts for those who are without them, and only secondarily to provide for those who wish to improve upon the situations they now hold.

It is hoped, therefore, that all who read this notice will make its object as widely known as possible; so that the maximum may be done for those who are seeking Tuning posts.

Though the scheme is as yet only in its infancy, three posts have already been obtained, and the letter given below from one of the tuners, will prove of interest.

“ Dear Sir,

I have by this time settled down at my work and am pleased to say, I like it immensely. Mr. ——— is the best master that could be desired and knows every branch of the trade.

My wages are 32s. 6d. a week, but I am promised another rise in September.

I thank you sincerely for your past kindness and the work procured, which has brought such happiness into my home.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's very faithfully,

(Signed :) ———

Incidents in a Nurse's Life.

MY BLIND MIDWIFERY PATIENT.

I was studying for the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Women Health Visitors and School Nurses at a home for cottage nurses. Besides myself there were six pupil-midwives preparing to pass the Central Midwives Board examination. They had had a very busy day, so that, when the bell rang after the nurse on call for the night had gone out with the sister, I was not surprised when the matron knocked me up to tell me that I could go with her to the case, as she had promised to take me to one when convenient. I got ready with all speed, naturally feeling rather nervous and excited, and found matron questioning the husband at the door. He was blind, he said, and so was his wife. It was a primipara case, and had not been booked.

We started off and followed the man to his cottage. It was about a mile from the town, and the night was very dark. When we reached it we found that there was no light of any kind to be had; night and day being the same to the inmates, there was not, perhaps rather naturally, a lamp or candle in the place. To add to our difficulties, the fire had not been lighted, and there was no water or anything else prepared.

Matron got the man to light the fire, and by the light of a spill made of Braille paper we examined the patient and collected a few necessaries. The husband was simply wonderful. He disappeared into the darkness and seemed able to lay his hand on anything we asked for. Matron next tried to send him to borrow a lamp of some sort; but the woman by this time was having constant pains, and he absolutely refused to leave her.

It was then past 1 a.m., and, as matron could not manage the case by firelight, we could think of no way of improvising a candle, and as the husband would not leave the house, I started out in quest of one. It was at least five minutes' walk to the nearest cottage, and it took quite another five to rouse the family. However, with the help of a little dog inside I managed at length to do this. I explained what was wanted to the man who poked his head from the window. At first he was rather surly; but finally he came down, gave me two candles, and shut the door before I had time to thank him.

I ran back, and found that matron had got things wonderfully ready, with the help of the blind man, by the light of Braille spills. The labour proved quite normal, and a fine 8-lb. baby was born.

Next morning by daylight I was able to see a little more of my surroundings. The contents of the cottage was beautifully clean and comfortable, but oddly arranged. The furniture was all quite plain, with no ledges to harbour dust; and curtains and ornaments and the other additions to appearance usually seen in a neat cottage were conspicuous by their absence. Whether by design or accident I do not know, but everything appeared to be of indistinctive colours.

The child did very well during the ten days following the delivery, and the mother was so dexterous in managing him that at times it was hard to believe that she was totally blind.

The parents, who had dreaded that the baby might be blind too,

were delighted that this was not so. We soon got used to our blind patients and their oddly arranged cottage, but I shall always look back on my first midwifery case as a most unusual and interesting experience.—*Nursing Mirror*, July 15th.

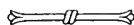


College of Teachers of the Blind.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

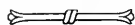
THE Hon. Registrar of the College has called our attention to two slight inaccuracies in the report of the examination results which appeared in our last issue. Will readers, therefore, kindly note the following corrections :—

Dixon, Janet Agnes, took Honours in both Arithmetic and Theory of Education.
Owen, Louie, took Honours in Theoretical Braille in 1915, and not 1914, as stated.

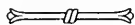


A Blind Man's Success.

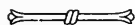
ACCORDING to the last of the tripos lists for the academic year, published on June 17th at Cambridge, a blind man, Mr. Michael Dodd, of Peterhouse, has obtained honours. He secured a second class in Part II. of the Law Tripos. Twelve months ago he secured a third class in Part I. He is the son of Mr. J. R. Dodd, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Born in 1893 he received his early education at the Newcastle Grammar School and the College for Blind, Worcester. He reads from Braille, and has also gone in for rowing.—*Daily News and Leader*, July 19.



MISS RYMER, 65 years of age, has been blind since she was ten years old. Despite her affliction she has knitted 139 pairs of socks for soldiers, and has been awarded the Queen Mary Needlework Guild Medal. She is an inmate of the Ellen Wilson Almshouses, York.—*Daily Sketch*, July 17th.



THE Admiralty has given an order for 1,000 ship fenders to the Greenwich Workshop for the Blind.—*Daily Telegraph*, July 17.



RE the statement made in *The Braille Review* for May, that the National Lending Library at London was the only Library not connected with or a part of some other organisation, Miss E. J. Giffin writes to us to state that The National Library for the Blind, at 1729 H Street, N.W. Washington District of Columbia, U.S.A., was incorporated in 1911 as a separate organisation, never having been connected in any way with any other institution or organisation. We are very pleased to be able to publish this correction, and apologise for the misstatement made through ignorance.

Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility of the views of his correspondents.]

BRITISH BRAILLE.

To the Editor of *The Braille Review*.

SIR,—I have read with much interest the American report on British Braille, published in this month's *Progress*. I, for my part, should rejoice to see the universal adoption of the Capital, as, although as well educated as the average man, I am frequently in difficulties on this important matter. As regards the suggested alterations in Grade I, I am, on the whole, in agreement with the Americans, but as regards Grade II, it is quite another matter. I consider, sir, that if their recommendations were sanctioned, it would be a distinctly retrograde step that we should be taking. We might give way, perhaps, on the question of overlapping of syllables, etc., but when it comes to the wholesale abolition of some of our most useful contractions, I think it monstrous and it is my firm opinion that no British Uniform Type Committee would ever countenance such a rough handling of our system. The Americans, as usual, want to have it far too much their own way.—Yours faithfully,
BRAILLIST.

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THE SOCIETY OF THE INNER LIGHT.

To the Editor of *The Braille Review*.

DEAR SIR,—The Society of the Inner Light began its life about a year ago as a branch of a previously formed group of earnest ones who were banded together by a simple rule of life to endeavour to carry their highest ideals into expression in dedicated "service" to God and their fellows.

The work the Society of the Inner Light has so far accomplished is that of having gathered together some score or more men who are inclined to be literary, and to like to meet and to do things together in recreation times. The effort is slowly but surely coming into practical usefulness by the formation of small groups, who choose the people they wish to work *with*, as also the object they wish to work *for*, keeping to a small number in each of the groups, in order that they may easily meet regularly, in the same place if convenient. Everyone who joins a group undertakes an office of some sort, and this serves to sustain interest. The groups are formed chiefly of blind members.

The work that is done is entirely voluntary, and is of various sorts, spiritual, mental, practical, and recreational; and may be simply explained by saying that we meet for mutual aspiration, conference, and brotherly giving of helpful and well-judged sympathy, and that we occupy our time in the reading aloud of papers, press articles and poetry; the transcribing of Braille as required, and that we are paying attention now to the department of recreation, and getting up amongst us well chosen recitations, songs, and some instrumental music.

Our groups are one and all hoping to learn how to give real comfort and encouragement to their fellows : indeed this is a paramount desire amongst them.

Provided the members or assistants adhere to the few very simple rules of the Society, they may hold their meetings in either an oratory, a reading room, an office, or a drawing room at my house as below.

In hopes of securing a small addition to our fund, which is used for journeys, guidance and other necessary incidental expenses, the enclosed short poem has been written and published for sale by its author on khaki cards which will hang up.—(Mrs.) L. F. WYNNE FFOULKES, Hon. General Secretary, 4, Nevern Square, London, S.W.

Lines suggested by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury's "Call to Prayer," in *The Times* of July 1st, 1915 :

THE CALL HAS COME !

Now comes the "call" to England
For all to do their part ;
Man, woman, child, in every home
Serve ye with all your *heart*.

Now is the hour to offer
Yourself,—uplifted,—~~whole~~ ;
The best you have,—and giving
Serve ye with all your *soul*.

Raise ye your thought to Heaven
For good of human kind ;
Ask God for light and guidance,
Serve ye with all your *mind*.

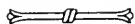
Be sure your God is with you,
Christ's Peace shall come at length ;
And out of sorrow—gladness,
Serve ye with all your strength.

"God bless our King and Country,
Defend, O God, the Right,"
May every man and every maid,
For holy Freedom fight !

—L. F. WYNNE FFOULKES.

[*All rights reserved.*]

NOTE.—The above poem is printed on small khaki cards for hanging. It is sold at 3d. each, or 2s. 6d. a dozen, which money will be devoted to a fund to afford cheerful recreation and suitable interests to the blind who are members and assistants of the Society of the Inner Light. Address, Hon. General Secretary, 4, Nevern Square, S.W.



Two of the blinded soldiers who recently passed the Massage Examination of the Incorporated Society of Masseuses have taken up appointments in the Massage Department of the 3rd London General Hospital ; four others have been appointed Masseurs to the Command Depôt, Heaton Park, Manchester.

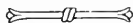
The National College for the Blind, Madrid.

WE have received from Madrid a copy of the magazine, *Los Ciegos*, (The Blind) for the month of May, in which there is an interesting account of the National College for the Blind in Madrid.

The National College for the Blind in Madrid is situated in the Paseo de la Castellana, No. 69, and, though recently constructed, does not seem to possess all the educational and sanitary advantages that such an institution should have. Under the same roof is the National College for the Deaf and Dumb, where there are two schools for children who are mentally deficient. This is under the patronage of the National Institution for the Mentally Deficient, who share part of the building with a branch of the Industrial School of Engineers. It can, therefore, be easily understood that, in a building where such varied activities are housed, and the number of whose pupils has trebled within a few years, has become somewhat small for the present scope of its work. The College admits blind children of both sexes, from the age of 5 to 14 years, from every part of Spain. These children have the option of staying in the establishment until they are seventeen years of age. There are 95 free scholars, of whom 65 are children. There are also some to whom allowances are made, and a number of day-pupils; and the latter can pay or not as they like. The teaching begins in the primary school, where children generally learn speedily, not only reading, writing and arithmetic, but the other subjects that are usually taught in the primary national schools of the country.

After about the first year the pupil is taught Sol Fa, and a year later, some musical instrument such as the piano, violin or guitar, etc. He is in the meantime being encouraged to take up whatever trade suits him best.

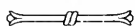
The doors of the College are open to any visitors who care to inspect the work, and the writer of the article from which we quote speaks very highly of the keen spirit of both teachers and pupils. The greatest needs felt by the College are, firstly, a more responsible board of management, and one that is better fitted to deal with the various problems that arise from time to time; secondly, a system of after-care, such as has been initiated at The National Institute for the Blind, of London, and the Societe de Placement de Secour, in Paris, to secure the future welfare of those who leave the College. From the article it would seem that a great many of the pupils, after completing their training at the College, drift out into the world and become mere beggars, or to become the prey of all those who are only too ready to trade upon the misfortunes of others.



The National Library for the Blind.

SIR,—Having seen in your columns lately two letters concerning Libraries for the Blind, I shall be glad if you will allow me a little space to inform your readers of the work of the National Library for the Blind (lately removed to 18, Tufton Street, Westminster). This Library is the only one of its kind in the United Kingdom, and books are sent to over six hundred towns and villages in all parts of the country. There are about

six thousand six hundred readers using the books and the music. The Library possesses twenty-four thousand volumes of literature and four thousand volumes of music ; both sections being continually supplemented by hand-written and stereotyped works. Any book or piece of music specially needed by readers is produced by hand by trained writers. Many blind organists and other musicians especially profit by this system. The Library is free to all blinded soldiers and sailors and to the deaf-blind. The committee hope that one day funds may be forthcoming to make it free to all who need it.—I am, Sir, &c., HENRY J. WILSON, Vice-Chairman, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.—*Spectator*.



Roll of Honour.

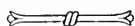
WE feel that the deepest sympathy will go out to Mr. J. H. Hewitt, the Manager of the Workshop for the Blind at Royal Avenue, Belfast, in the loss he has sustained in the death of his third son, Lieutenant Ernest Henry Hewitt of the Lancashire Regiment, previously reported missing, now reported to have been killed on June 15th, 1915. His brother, Lieutenant Holt Montgomery Hewitt, and another brother, Lieut. William Arthur Hewitt, are both unofficially reported to have been killed on June 1st. Mr. Hewitt has only one son left, Rev. J. M. Hewitt, Vicar of St. Mark's, Haycock, Lanes.

In a letter sent to Mr. Hewitt from the Commanding Officer of the 9th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (Inniskilling) the writer says :—

“ Dear Mr. Hewitt,

“ I hardly know how to write. A letter is such a poor thing. Your two boys were loved by everyone in the Regiment. They had such sunny natures together with such sterling characters that they were an example and an inspiration to all. No words can express the sympathy we all feel for yourself and Mrs. Hewitt and your family in this grievous blow.”

In the face of such a loss as this words seem inadequate to express what we must all feel. At the same time it must be a consolation to Mr. Hewitt, as it is to so many who are losing their nearest and dearest in this terrible war, to know that their sons died as heroes. It is not they who suffer, but those who must ever mourn their loss.



Blind.

God gave me sight

The utmost depths of my desire to seek ;

He gave me heart to understand

And lips to speak.

Then, o'er my eyes, across the miraged sand-dunes of my hopes

Was flung the dross of my own lust,

Until my tears washed clean each single grain

And won but dust.

God took my sight, yet turned not from me in my misery,

I groped within the maze of his decree

To find your cool strong hand outstretched to pilot me.

LEIGHTON DEMAIN.

Royal Normal College.

IN the world of philanthropy, as elsewhere in life, it is difficult to account for the inequalities of fortune. Achievement in its best and truest form is not always attended by that worldly success which at least allows of further effort without the draw-back of financial anxiety. The Royal Normal College for the Blind is a case in point. For 44 years it has striven to train those afflicted with the loss of sight to earn their own living, and to render them independent self-reliant citizens. It has succeeded in accomplishing its high object in a manner which has won wide admiration, yet its work is constantly hindered by that exiguity of funds which hampers it at almost every turn. For a little time matters looked hopeful, then came the devastating war, which swept away, with other things, the brighter hopes of those who labour for the college with an earnestness which deserves a better recognition. The most-desired form of that recognition is a list of contributions which will enable the management to proceed with their work of mercy. Five thousand pounds are urgently needed. It is not a great sum, yet how splendid the purchase it could make.

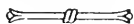
Yesterday the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, with the Sheriffs, attended the annual prize festival at the College, and evidence was again forthcoming of the excellence of the work performed within its walls. There was playing and singing, gymnastics and swimming. The pupils proved by their dexterity in typewriting, and their brightness in the general subjects of education, how keen is their intelligence and how diligent their application. Truly, nature is wonderfully kind, making amends for the loss of one faculty by adding keenness to others. Anon, there was the award of prizes, and only here was the tragedy of those young lives truly revealed. For them there was not the beauty of the green trees around—the function took place in the open air—and as they groped their way to the sympathetic Lady Mayoress, who gently drew them to her before handing them their prizes, the need for such noble institutions made itself insistently felt.

In a brief speech the Lord Mayor voiced the sentiments of all present. He referred to the happiness on the faces of all the students, and said surely the noble spirit of Milton hovered round those buildings. Though sightless those children had gained the internal light of true love, and he congratulated the workers on behalf of the College on being privileged to assist in that splendid work. What was being performed in that institution should be an inspiration to all those present in these darkened days.

Mr. Hayes Fisher thanked the Lord Mayor for his presence, and appealed for added support, and the sightless ones with their cheers proved the truth of his contention, that, though their eyes did not see, their ears had heard and their minds had responded to the heartfelt words of London's Chief Magistrate, and to the warm, motherly greeting of the gracious lady who had assisted him to make the function a success.—*The Daily Telegraph*, July 19th.

Sir Arthur Pearson.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON has been compelled for a time to give up his splendid work on behalf of blind soldiers. He has undergone an operation—not on his eyes, fortunately—and this has pulled him down somewhat. When he has sufficiently recovered he will leave town for several weeks' rest. No man better deserves a holiday, for he has given his energy and mental powers with the utmost self-sacrifice to the cause to which he is devoting himself. When I was talking to him a short time ago he was full of further plans for the benefit of his "children."
—*Evening News*, July 20th.



QUIETLY but steadily the work in Torquay of firmly establishing the Convalescent Home for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors has been pursued, and successfully too, as the first annual report demonstrates. At first the idea was to provide a home for blind warriors of Devon or of the West, but the scheme developed into an annexe of St. Dunstan's Hostel, and now there is a constant stream of blind soldiers and sailors who, discharged from the war hospitals, are yet too shattered in nerve, or needing temporary rest, to go direct to St. Dunstan's for instruction. Torquay has proved an admirable health centre for this purpose, and a better position or a more suitable building than the villa Bournbrook, which has been placed at the committee's disposal through the generosity of Mr. H. Dundee Hooper, it would be difficult to find. All the committee need, to enable them to continue their splendid work, is an increase in the number of annual or shorter period subscribers, so that the necessary funds may be assured to maintain Bournbrook in its present efficient condition. The president is the Hon. Mrs. Tremayne, while Mr. Arthur Inkersley has undertaken the duties of hon. secretary.—*Torquay Directory*, July 19th.



MANY of the readers of *The Life of Faith* are familiar with the splendid work of the Hill Murray Mission to the Blind and Illiterate-sighted in North China, which for the past thirty years has been quietly pursuing its useful way, with great profit and blessing to all who come under its influence. Several members of the Murray family, together with one or two of the workers associated with the mission, are now serving with the colours, and there is just the possibility that the claims of other causes at this time may lead to the work among the blind in China being temporarily overlooked. Writing us from College House, Crieff, Scotland, Miss C. F. Gordon-Cumming, who has just passed her eightieth birthday, suggests that some of their kind supporters might be inclined to make a special effort to help, in order that she may see the funds of this necessary work on a firmer footing ere she has to lay down her service. The history of the mission is its best recommendation, and we hope that the appeal will not go unheeded.—*The Life of Faith*, 12th July, 1916.



MR. HAROLD FRANK LAKEMAN, of New College, Oxford, has been appointed to the Fawcett Memorial Scholarship. The Scholarship (£50 per annum) is tenable for four years, subject to continuous residence at the University.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE JULY NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—The Crossing of the Danube, by Lieut. E. H. Young, R.N.V.R., M.P., from *Cornhill Magazine*—The Tea Ceremony, by Elspet Keith from "*The Times*" *Japanese Supplement*—The Rescue of a British Red Cross Hospital Party, from *Chambers's Journal*—War Duties for the Dog, by Ignatius Phayne, from *Windsor Magazine*—Life in a Pine Wood, by W. H. Hudson, from *National Review*.

Progress.—Editorial—Matters of the Moment—Warship Life (Taffrail)—Sir John Jellicoe—Our French Page—Our Prize Competition—National Institute Employment Bureau—Correspondence—Grave and Gay—Question Box—Chess—How to take care of the Sick at Home—Our Home Page—British Braille—Advertisements—Inset: Map of Caucasus and Mesopotamia—Supplement: "The Gold Bug," "Edgar Allen Poe" (*to be continued*).

Comrades.—In School Days, by John Greenleaf Whittier—Basil's Violin, by Mrs. Molesworth. Chapter III.—Gossip for Grade I. (in Grade I.)

School Magazine.—The Three Golden Apples, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*conclusion*)—What Japan has done for us, by Percy Alden, M.P.—Monthly Almanack—Zepps that pass in the night—The Truth about the U-Boat Fleet—The Voyage of the "Valiant," a Serial Story, by E. Le Breton Martin. Chapters VI. and VII., from "The Scout."

Braille Musical Magazine.—Our Supplementary Numbers—"Musical News Comments" from *Musical News*—Rhythmic Method of Musical Training—Correspondence—National Institute Employment Bureau—Our Tuners' Column—Max Reger—Notes and News concerning the Blind—Musical War Notes—Foreign Intelligence—Miscellaneous Notes—Staff and Braille Side by Side—Insets: "Outward Bound" (Song), by C. V. Stanford; "Slavische Tanze" (Duet), Piano, by A. Dvorak; Slow Movement, in A Flat (The Rhenish Symphony), by R. Schumann.

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture by J. S. Kellett Smith, F.R.C.S., Eng.—Hospital Work in Serbia—Correspondence—Notes by the Way—Official Notices.

* * * *

The Moon Magazine (in Moon type).—An English Woman's Adventures in the German Lines (*continued*)—Doves with Brains—For War Correspondents Only—The Girls who Make our Matches—Tunnelling a Mountain—A Clock Made of Straw—There's Money in Mushrooms.

WANTED.—**Stainsby-Wayne Shorthand Machine.** Apply, F. C. H., The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, W.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

The National Institute for the Blind have For Sale a number of **Goat Skin Rugs** made by a blind man. They are beautifully made and are in a variety of patterns, each measuring 69 in. by 36 in., the price being Grey Rugs, 11s.; and Black Rugs, 11s. 6d. each.

REVISED BRAILLE SHORTHAND.

BRAILLE EDITION, price 1s. post free.

LETTERPRESS, price 6d., post free 7½d.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

SEPTEMBER, 1916.

No. 9.

Editorial.

THE December number of *The Braille Review* will be the last. On the 1st of January, 1917, there will appear in its place No. 1 of *The Beacon*, under which name we shall continue *The Braille Review* in an enlarged and, as we hope, an improved form. *The Beacon* will be quarto size, printed on art paper with a tasteful cover design, and with illustrations each month. We feel that the time has come when the National Institute should be represented by a sighted magazine to contain each month all that is worth recording in the blind world. We ask all our readers and supporters to help us in our endeavours to make the periodical worthy of the object it has in view, namely, to do everything to promote the interests and welfare of those who are suffering from the handicap of sightlessness.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of all those who now have the interests of the blind at heart,—and in this connection we feel that it would be invidious to mention any names in particular, though many spring to our lips,—the parrot cry of “pity the poor blind” is being more rarely heard. Pity is a word that we do not admit in our vocabulary. In its place we wish to write sympathy and human understanding, to bring home to all who are the possessors of the blessed gift of sight that the only way in which they can be of service to those who live in darkness is by realising that, in nine cases out of ten, a blind person is a purely normal human being who has exactly the same aspirations and emotions as other people. It is our simple duty to do all in our power to help them to rise superior to the limitations of their handicap. That there are limitations it would be cruel and heartless not to admit, yet, if we consider for a moment the various fields of activity in which blind workers can compete successfully with those who can see, mental adjustment becomes a comparatively simple thing. The war, with all its horrors and tragedies, has at least been the means of teaching many of us to realise things of which we had no conception. We did not realise before the war that we should be suddenly confronted with the problem of how to care and provide for numberless soldiers and sailors—very normal human beings—who would return blinded from the war. To-day St. Dunstan's Hostel has become a household word all the world over as the House of Good Comfort, the haven for crippled humanity, and has shown us that a blind man, far from being

an incubus in the social scheme, can be made into a very useful citizen, who is able to take his place as a proficient worker in many an undreamt of sphere. Only a few years ago the average person's idea of a blind man seems to have been that of a human derelict sitting at a street corner with a dog and a brass plate! The St. Dunstan's conception shows him as a masseur, a telephone operator, a diver, a poultry farmer, a boot repairer, a maker of mats, and baskets, and picture frames, a typist and stenographer. And in all these varied branches of industry the man without sight has been found to compete with his sighted rival with the utmost success. Was it not a blind man who headed the list of successful candidates in the examination held by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses? Have not blind musicians beaten their sighted rivals again and again? Can they not work a typewriter with as much speed and accuracy as those who can see? These are simple questions which can be answered simply in the affirmative. We think therefore that *The Beacon* is sure of a ready welcome. Good wine, they say, needs no bush, so that we shall be content to leave the verdict of our endeavours to take care of itself. In our next issue we may have some more to say about our new venture. In the meantime we ask you all to bear in mind that January will be the date of the new publication; and we need hardly say that we shall welcome most cordially any suggestions for its initiation.



Military Wedding in Glasgow.

A MILITARY wedding of exceptional interest took place in St. George's Church, Buchanan Street, when Miss Edith Aitken Gibson Gunn, younger daughter of the late Rev. G. Gibson Gunn (of St. George's) and Mrs. Gibson Gunn, 44, Granby Terrace, was married to Mr. Bertram G. H. Mayell (late quartermaster-sergeant), who came over with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and lost his sight as a result of wounds received while on active service. A guard of honour was formed at the church by ten wounded Canadians from Stobhill. The Rev. W. J. S. Miller, Helensburgh, performed the marriage ceremony. A telegram of congratulation and good wishes was received from Sir Arthur Pearson, President of The National Institute for the Blind.—*The Evening Telegraph and Post*, August 11th.



D.C.M.'s Romance.

A ROMANTIC wedding took place at Grimsby, the bridegroom being Sergeant John Fred Leeman, D.C.M., Lincolnshire Regiment, and the bride Miss Miriam Moody, only daughter of the Rev. Joseph Moody, missionary of the Welcome Hall. Leeman was a member of the original Expeditionary Force. He has been thrice wounded and six times mentioned in dispatches. He was awarded the D.C.M. for gallantly holding a trench for nearly four hours against a superior force of Germans until help arrived. A German bullet which entered the side of his head destroyed the sight of both eyes. He has been trained at St. Dunstan's, and he and his wife are to commence their career upon a poultry farm.—*The News of the World*, August 13th.

At St. Dunstan's.

"WELL, sir, what is the verdict?" I asked, wondering whether he would give me one or six weeks before I should again be able to see. This was the first time the bandages over my eyes were removed, and after two weeks of enforced darkness it was not a very great shock to me to find that though the bandages had gone the darkness had not. I was therefore in a cheerful mood when I visited the oculist, vaguely speculating as to how long he would give me before I should get back my sight. His next words hit me with greater force than the German bullet which had laid me low some sixteen days ago.

"I am afraid," he said very slowly, "that I can give you no hope, but then of course we doctors are very often wrong." As the orderly led me back to my ward my thoughts were very low, and to my mother's eager question of, "What did he say?" I hissed out between clenched teeth, "I am blind, blind for the rest of my life."

It is best not to describe some scenes. . . . My mother's pluck at this moment simply astounded me. When we had got over the first shock of the situation, "You will have to go to St. Dunstan's," she said quite cheerfully.

"What's the good?" I growled. "I shall get my pension and that is enough to live on. I don't want and can't get anything else."

"But wouldn't you like to learn to read and write?" she asked. It was a long argument, but in the end, to please my mother, and only to please her, I consented to go to St. Dunstan's, and so it was that in April, 1915, I arrived shy, and to be candid, very frightened, at that house in Regent's Park which sees so much misery and dejection turned into happiness, ambition, and joy of life.

Well, I began first to *learn how to be blind*, which is not easy. I was shown how by the help of strips of carpet I could walk about the house without fear of running into furniture; I was shown how by running my stick along the edges of these strips I could walk from one room to another as quickly and with as much confidence as if I could see; I was shown how by methods of warning boards let into paths, steps, etc., in the garden, the blind could walk with safety and complete independence. I realised with almost a shock of joy that this most cherished possession (independence) was still within my grasp. My spirits, my hopes and general outlook on life became suddenly much brighter. I found a great fascination in trying to do things for myself, and I then and there made up my mind to learn everything that would make me less dependent on others.

The practical side of learning to walk, etc., was soon mastered, and I now had to tackle the mental side of my education, a much more serious and difficult problem. I started with Braille and typewriting. The former seemed almost impossible at first, but after much hard work I learnt to write first the alphabet, then the many contractions. After about six weeks I found I could read and write fully contracted Braille very slowly but surely. I was gaining confidence in myself every day. I could now walk about the house and garden using my stick very little, without any sign of nervousness, and what pleased me most, without obviously appearing to be blind.

The voices out of the darkness now had a meaning for me, and I could in my own mind place, more or less, the age, size, and vague general appearance of the owners. I found that voices ran very much in types, and after having had one or two of each type described to me, I could tell very roughly the colouring and general character of others of that type.

I had said, "What is the use of going to St. Dunstan's?" I now understood. With the loss of my sight I had perforce to give up big and small things alike which had played a great part in my life heretofore. At St. Dunstan's I was not only shown how other things could take their place, but actually *given* the things to do so. This reminds me of the day I arrived. When I asked a private soldier, who had been at the hostel some three weeks, what his opinion of Mr. Pearson,* our C.O., was, he said: "I'll tell you this, he's always giving. If you ask for anything that costs money he gives it you in the morning, and if you ask for trouble he gives it you in the neck." This statement is, I think, the truest and most descriptive ever made of our "Chief."

When in hospital after first realising my blindness I could only think of what was *lost* to me for ever. My games, my work, my love of beauty. I remembered the raw afternoons of winter in my country home—how I would get out my gun and with my brown spaniel spend an hour or two walking up hedges and ditches in search of any odd pheasant or rabbit, how I would then return aglow with life and the colours of the sunset sky, to read (and doze) in the friendly blaze of a glorious fire—all this I can visualize yet. . . . In those days every tree, every blade of grass, every stubble- and every root-field had meant more to me than I could say. My love of sport, my perfect happiness in the surroundings of all God's natural beauties, all were now, I felt, for ever lost. I could no longer pick up a book or a magazine during an idle quarter of an hour. Time would become an eternity to me. In a town everything would be the same—whether in Whitechapel or in Bond Street. I would hear footsteps passing, but faces, clothes, class, and sex would not be known to me. I could no longer even look into the shop windows, or drop into a music-hall, restaurant, or theatre to while away a weary hour.

But now what a difference!

Games are possible, for at St. Dunstan's I learnt how to row, play pushball, cards, draughts, and chess; long walks are made easy with a human companion instead of a dog; I can fence and do gymnastics. What I have lost in the beauty of the fields, woods, and sky I have gained in the beauty of human nature. Never before had I realised what kindness and self-sacrifice were in my fellow-creatures. My odd moments are now filled up with reading, making baskets or playing about on my typewriter; when I want to go out everything is made easy, with plenty of people always ready to take me. I am living, of course, an altogether different life, but everything I have lost in the old has been replaced in the new, not by my own effort, but by the endless work, I might almost say slavery, of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Pearson, and all those who help him.

* Now Sir Arthur Pearson.

I am blind—it is not easy to convey to the reader what this means. Moreover I became blind when I was nineteen, and life at first seemed to hold very little in store for me. What I wish to impress on my reader is that my first tragic estimate of the future has been proved wrong since my time at St. Dunstan's. Proved wrong largely through the example and personality of Mr. Pearson (a blind man himself) and through the wonderful spirit of independence and cheerfulness with which the whole place throbs. I am not asking any one to subscribe to St. Dunstan's, this would be a mere platitude, but I ask those who can, to give the Institution their attention and their sympathy, so that others who may have to follow in my footsteps may be able to say with me, "Though so much has been taken from us, yet more remains."—
A BLINDED OFFICER, May, 1916. *The National Review*, August, 1916.



Chaplain to Blinded Soldiers.

WELSH BLIND MINISTER'S APPOINTMENT.

THE National Institute for the Blind, whose president is Sir Arthur Pearson, has selected the Rev. David Griffiths, the blind Baptist minister of Colwyn Bay, for the post of Free Church chaplain for the United Kingdom, and he will enter upon his duties early in October.

Though blind himself, Mr. Griffiths has spent ten successful years in the ministry. Born in 1878, he is a native of Rhosymedre, near Ruabon, North Wales. When a little more than six years of age he lost his sight as the result of scarlet fever. Five and a half years later he entered Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester, where he received the first part of his education, remaining there seven years. With a view to entering the Baptist ministry, he became a student at the Academy, Pontypridd, for eighteen months, at the end of which time he was received for definitely theological training at the South Wales Baptist College, Cardiff.

At the close of a thoroughly successful career at the college he was appointed pastor of the Baptist Church, Welshpool, which position he held until he took up his present pastorate at Colwyn Bay seven years ago. He has spent most happy years in Colwyn Bay, and is as reluctant to part with his people as they are with him. His forceful preaching in particular has been much appreciated, not only by his own church, but also by many other residents in the district, who often took the opportunity of hearing him. He was markedly popular, too, with the visitors from the great industrial centres.

Though totally blind he, of course, performs every part of a Baptist minister's usual work with perfect ease, immersing new members to the church absolutely without aid from others. For his Scripture lessons, marriage and burial services and private reading he uses the well-known Braille type for the blind, which he himself writes as well as reads. Mr. Griffiths has been exceedingly fortunate in his wife, who before their marriage, ten years ago, was assistant mistress at Hopkinstown School, Pontypridd. They have four children.—*Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury*, August 23rd.

A Soldier's Misfortune.

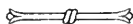
BLINDED AND MAIMED BY A BOMB WHILE IN ACTION.

FEW soldiers have met with greater misfortune in the present war than Pte. Walter John Bowers, of the 11th Fusiliers, who has completely lost his sight and his right hand through the explosion of a hand-grenade while engaged in action. The unfortunate young soldier—he is only 21—is an inmate of St. Dunstan's Blinded Soldiers' Hostel, Regent's Park, and is spending a holiday with his parents at 24, Lenelby Road, Tolworth. In spite of his terrible injuries he is wonderfully cheerful.

He told our representative that he lost his sight and his hand through a bomb exploding when he was about to hurl it into the enemy's trench. Pte. Bowers was educated at Tolworth Council School. He joined the Army in September, 1914, and went out to the Front last summer. He was in hospital in Sheffield when the King visited the institution, and his Majesty expressed kindly sympathy with him in his great misfortune.

At St. Dunstan's Hostel Pte. Bowers is being taught the Braille system of reading and writing. He has also learned typewriting, and won his machine, worth 28 guineas, in a competition. In a letter to his parents the lieutenant of his former platoon makes laudatory reference to the young soldier's bravery, which, he says, had been brought to the notice of the commanding officer of the regiment.

It is Pte. Bowers' intention, so he informed our representative, shortly to set up in business as a newsagent at Tolworth.—*Surrey Comet*, August 12th.



Nimble Fingers of the Blind.

VISIT TO BENWELL DENE SCHOOL.

THE need of our blinded soldiers has aroused much interest in the subject of occupations for the sightless—a subject in regard to which too much conservative content has previously been felt.

Perhaps it was taken for granted that the life of a blind man or woman was bound to be a monotonous one, and that to try to introduce variety and interest into it was to attempt the impossible. In 1838 a society was established in Newcastle, called "The Asylum for the Blind for Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the counties of Northumberland and Durham," and with the object of affording "to the indigent blind a religious, moral, and elementary education, founded on Scriptural principles, and to teach them such trades as are suitable to their capacities."

Note the last words. Their intent is still carried out, but how much more widely they have come to be interpreted! It is doubtful, indeed, if any limit is now consciously set to the capacities of the blind.

The Newcastle society, formed 77 years ago, has seen many changes and come through many difficulties, but in the direct line of descent is the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Benwell Dene, Benwell Lane.

Here the children from the age of five to sixteen are received and trained in a school which thoroughly tests their capacities. Neither the arts nor the crafts are neglected, and a recent scholar, of whom the teachers are naturally proud, is a Newcastle lad who is an L.R.A.M., and whose musical career promises to be a highly successful one.

Children whose mental or artistic gifts are exceptional are sent on to a London institution, those who are particularly clever with their hands usually remain at the Benwell Dene workshops, where about 28 old scholars are now employed in making and repairing baskets, mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, and other exceedingly useful articles. Orders for these come in regularly from big firms in the four northern counties, and during the war there is naturally a demand from hospitals, etc.

"Basket-making" suggests the old-fashioned training given to the blind, but the manufacture of baskets at Benwell Dene is on a very different scale. Indeed, the representative of the *Evening Mail* who was shown over the workshops yesterday had not realised before the varieties of basket that are required in the course of one day's work in a busy town, or in a country village for a matter of that.

There were clothes-baskets, coal-baskets, rabbit-baskets, "turnip swills," bread-baskets, baskets for jar-casing, luncheon-baskets, and a score more, including baby's cradle.

It takes a sighted man seven years to thoroughly master basket manufacture. The workers at Benwell Dene are initiated into its mysteries gradually (for the school children give a certain amount of time to it), and in the manner which is so mysterious to the sighted they become not only proficient, but marvellously sure in every touch and movement.

Most of us have rarely seen a ship's fender that has not been sopping wet with salt water and more or less marked by its many bumpings against the quayside. At Benwell Dene they may be seen in all stages of production, and the men seem particularly interested in this work. Perhaps it gives more scope to the imagination than the making of basket or mat.

Great pride, however, is taken in their job by the men at the mat weaving looms. More skill is required for this work than would be supposed. Huge bales of yarn were stored in one corner of the large room where the mats are made. There is a winding machine by means of which the yarn is put into the large bales which are placed beside the looms. Mattress making and the cane-seating of chairs are two further branches of the Benwell industry. Many of the girls are very clever at cane-seating, but more remarkable, perhaps, is their skill at knitting shawls. All the stockings worn by pupils are machine-knitted by them.

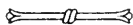
The school has a splendid library, and the children have a friend in Bedford who writes stories and has them put into Braille type especially for them. The Museum is another interesting spot. Here are models of all kinds; that of a modern liner is a great favourite, and the stuffed birds and animals are also a delight to the boys and girls. Mr. William Robertson, F.G.I.S., the House Governor, models maps in clay, which are made permanent by a further process. Geography is a welcome lesson, particularly when a war-map is shown, or rather

presented to be examined by touch. There is not the least doubt that a correct picture of the object felt by the children's sensitive finger-tips and described by the teacher is presented to their young minds. Some of the teachers are blind, and one is an old scholar.

Benwell Dene, which was bought from Dr. Thomas Hodgkin in 1893, is prettily situated, and its grounds provide the pupils with opportunities of healthy enjoyment. Swings and see-saws and giants' strides are just as popular with sightless children as with their luckier brothers and sisters.

The visitor cannot help regretting their inability to see the fine view up the valley of the Derwent, but on the whole it is not the melancholy of the afflicted that gets hold of the mind. Rather it is a sense of relief and pleasure that the capacities of the blind are here understood better than is the case at most institutions existing for a similar purpose.

The workers set about their tasks, talk to each other, or stroll through the grounds in a manner that suggests a degree of interest in life that is quite comparable with that of the average sighted man or woman. This is a hopeful, healthy sign. We have done with treating the blind as "poor things." They are at least our equals—a little thought may persuade us that they are our superiors.—*Newcastle Evening Mail*, August 11th.



Publication of the Classics in Braille.

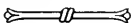
THE following particulars have been kindly sent us by H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., director of the music to The National Institute for the Blind.

The music staff of The National Institute for the Blind has been considerably increased during the past two years, and a long list of music has just been drawn up to form the basis of its work, including organ, piano and church music, songs and musical literature. The following important works deserve special mention: For the organ, complete edition of Bach (to be done gradually), Mendelssohn's sonatas, complete, and Bach's Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues. It may be noted that these are to be done in a form which will enable the learner to grasp the whole score more rapidly than if the old methods had been employed.

A number of well-known songs have just been published, and modern composers are now receiving attention by the transcribing of pieces by Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Grieg and Sjogren, which will be issued almost immediately.

Until recently blind organists (of whom there are over a hundred holding posts in this country) were very inadequately provided for in the way of service music, but every effort is now being made to remedy this state of affairs, and the National Institute published during the last few years a new Braille edition of "Hymns, A. and M.," with the voice parts presented in a more concise form; a "Manual of Plain-Song," by Briggs and Frere (the words and music being written together in Braille for the first time); a selection from Stainer's "Cathedral Prayer Book," services such as Stanford in B flat, Tours in F, Ayre in E flat, and some

anthems and carols. The publication of these works has touched the fringe of a great need, but with our present music staff it is confidently anticipated that a large supply of church music will be accessible to the blind organist.—*Musical Standard*, August 5th.



National Uniform Type Committee.

THE first meeting of this Committee, representing the Publishing Houses, National Institutions, Home-Teaching Societies and Libraries for the Blind, was held at The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W., on July 28th, 1916, when there were present: Mrs. Danckwerts, Miss Austin, Miss Brautigan, Miss Gilbert, Miss Lyall, The Rev. Arthur Taylor, Messrs. F. A. J. Burns, Guy M. Campbell, W. P. Merrick, M. J. Myers, A. P. Pearson, J. M. Ritchie, H. Stainsby, W. M. Stone, H. J. Wilson.

Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., was appointed Chairman, Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. F. A. J. Burns, Hon. Secretary. The Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the proposals of the American Commission on Uniform Type for the Blind, and to report with recommendations.



The Blind Playgoer.

HOW HE "SEES" WITH HIS EARS.

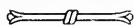
AN interesting interview with a blind man, Mr. Robert Dixon Smith, on playgoing appears in the *Liverpool Daily Post* to-day.

"A blind man 'sees' a play with his ears," said Mr. Dixon Smith. "There are three essential things necessary for a play if a blind playgoer is to enjoy it. It must have a good 'story,' good dialogue, and good elocution. Given those three things, a blind man can enjoy a play almost as much as a man with sight. It needs great concentration for the first act, just to get the threads of the story together in your mind. After that, one can abandon oneself to the enjoyment of the play and enjoy it to the very end. Each voice conjures up in our mind's eye a picture, a character; and I dare say I could describe the grouping, after I had heard all the characters speak, just as well as a man looking on. You have it in a word—the voice is everything.

"I am very fond of the theatre. I have 'seen' Irving, Beerbohm Tree, Oscar Asche—in fact, most of our leading actors. Irving played Mephistopheles in 'Faust' when I 'saw' him, and I could not imagine him as any other character. I 'saw' Beerbohm Tree as Fagin, but he was not half so good an actor in this part as another player named Mackintosh whom I 'saw' in the same piece.

"Opera needs much more concentration than drama for a blind man. If I were 'seeing' 'Faust,' for instance, I would want to see it at the rate of one act a night. The memorisation of words and music at the same time is very difficult, and makes it doubly hard for a blind man to make pictures of it. Revues are easy enough, though once you 'see' one you 'see' the lot; and comedy-operas, especially the earlier ones, are good 'seeing' for the blind.

"I go to comedy-operas just to pick up an air or two for the piano. And, by the by, get it out of people's heads that all blind people are musical. They are not. They are just like the people who have sight in that respect. But when a blind man plays he usually plays very well."—*Pall Mall Gazette*, August 21st.



Blind Readers.

ENLARGED OPPORTUNITIES OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY.

THE gift of the Carnegie Trust permitting the removal of the headquarters of The National Library for the Blind from Queen's Road, Bayswater, to 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, has accomplished much more than the change of site. Not only has the library been transplanted from very congested quarters into a spacious building, but increased facilities have been given to the blind by the establishment of a reading room to which they can resort for the inspection of new books, and where presently they can enjoy the pleasure and advantage of a club. The building in Tufton Street formerly belonged to the Architectural Association, which is marking time during the period of the war and has removed to smaller premises. By means of the help from the Carnegie Trust the National Library is now paying £150 per year less in rent and rates than in their previous quarters.

To a representative of *The Westminster Gazette* Miss Austin, the secretary, made clear the point that though this generous help has been forthcoming the income of the fund has suffered owing to the war, and increased help is necessary in order to meet its heavy claims. Only a small sum is charged to blind persons for the use of the library, and this is wholly or partially remitted if circumstances demand. To blinded soldiers, for instance, the library is quite free, and by a recent resolution it is without charge to those who are deaf as well as blind.

To be sightless is a dread affliction, but Miss Austin points to the fact that at least 500 persons in this country have the additional burden of deafness. Some of them may be described as Helen Kellers by reason of the ability and determination they have shown in overcoming the limitations of their lives. One lady whose typewritten letter was shown to the writer had learnt German. She desired to help the National Library, and thought that a forcible letter from one afflicted like herself might bring home to the ordinary person with powers unimpaired the advantages of the library. "I will endeavour," she wrote, "to make readers realise what a priceless boon books are to me—deaf, blind, and isolated, cut off from almost all the ordinary enjoyments and amenities of life." The letter is eloquent concerning the mental and stimulating services rendered to these deaf and blind persons by means of the library. It lifts them out of their narrow contracted life into a more spacious and happier heritage. The blinded soldiers from St. Dunstan's House, when they have learnt Braille, avail themselves of the benefits of the library, to which they are admitted free. Miss Austin and her staff have recently been engaged in supplying them with books for the holidays. Their tastes are diverse, and whilst one man required Plato there were more who desired Conan Doyle, Garvice, or Nat Gould.

As far as possible they are given what they require, and already the books have proved a great boon to these brave and blinded men.

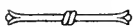
Not only is fiction provided, but the library seeks opportunities for specialisation in its help to the blind. Strictly speaking, it does not offer pecuniary assistance—that belongs to the business of other societies—but when blind persons desire special books in order that they may study for examinations or obtain knowledge on particular subjects the library meets their wishes wherever possible. Mr. Michael Dodd, a blind gentleman, recently passed third-class in Law at Cambridge, and admits that he owes a great deal to the legal books which were specially written in Braille for his use prior to the examinations. At the present time Miss Austin is arranging an exchange of special books from the Paris Library for the Blind for someone engaged in particular French studies.

Music is another subject upon which the library specialises for the benefit of the large number of blind persons who become organists, pianists, or soloists. As an outcome of its forward policy a music librarian has been appointed, who is blind himself and is an excellent musician. By his help the library will be able to assist those who are thus gaining a livelihood to secure the music they require.

These new premises for the library in Tufton Street have filled the officers with the hope that the nation will recognise the necessity for enlarged opportunities to be given blind persons. Their aim is to supply books free, at least to poor persons, and to enlarge their choice of books. In many instances the blind man or woman has become dependent upon others because assistance has not been afforded him to develop his gifts.

Miss Austin emphasises the indebtedness of the library to the 500 voluntary writers who assist in adding 1,500 volumes annually to the library. But for this labour the library could not accomplish a tithe of what is being done to-day. From these trained and experienced writers teachers are also chosen for the blinded soldiers at St. Dunstan's.

Public libraries to the number of 69 are affiliated with this National Library for the Blind, and only recently Johannesburg paid its subscription for the benefit of the blind in South Africa. This association on the part of the public libraries proves of the greatest benefit to them, because whilst it saves the necessity of storing a large number of Braille books they can obtain regular parcels of literature for the blind. As a matter of fact, it is like a box from the lending libraries, which, when the books are read, can be returned for another. For a payment of £5 per year public libraries receive twenty volumes, which can be changed as often as desired.—*The Westminster Gazette*, August 8th.



MR. HENRY G. NEWELL, who has just secured the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, is the nineteenth pupil of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., to win the degree, while 48 of the students have gained the Associateship of the Royal College of Organists. Mr. Newell is the first to gain the Lafontaine prize for the Fellowship. That, possibly, has given rise to the misapprehension that he is the first blind musician to become an F.R.C.O.—*The Times*, August 4th.

Obituary.

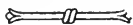
MR. ARTHUR HENRY.

WE much regret to record the death, at the age of 74 years, of Mr. Arthur Henry, 73, Redcliff Gardens, S.W., who for 19 years has been an active member of the Council of The National Institute for the Blind, and one of its most generous supporters. Mr. Henry, who was himself blind, has done distinguished service for those who are similarly handicapped. He was a member of the British Braille Committee, and for many years acted as Examiner for the Braille Certificates of the National Institute. As a member of its Book Committee, Mr. Henry's technical knowledge was most valuable, especially in connection with the manufacture and supply of apparatus for the use of the blind. On the occasion of the Home-Teaching Society becoming a branch of the National Institute Mr. Henry joined its committee and has taken the keenest interest in its work. He was laid to rest in his family vault at Kensal Green Cemetery on Saturday, August 26th, 1916. The President and Chairman of the Institute were out of town, but the Council was represented by the Secretary-General, Mr. Henry Stainsby.

REV. G. W. REYNOLDS.

THE death has occurred of the Rev. George Worthington Reynolds, the venerable Rector of Elwick Hall. Born at Bath, Mr. Reynolds took his degree at Cambridge in 1855, and was ordained in 1857 by the Bishop of Manchester. He served as curate of St. James-over-Darwen from 1857 to 1863, and then accepted the living of Hoddlesden, where he remained till 1867. Afterwards he became secretary of the Manchester Diocesan Church Building Society, and later was appointed Rector of St. Mark's, Cheetham Hill, and Rural Dean of Cheetham. In 1891 he was promoted by the Bishop of Manchester to the Rectory of Elwick Hall.

Though blind for many years Mr. Reynolds was able to conduct the services of the church with marvellous completeness. By many years the senior clergyman of the Hartlepool Rural Deanery, he was much beloved both by parishioners and his colleagues of his ministry. He leaves three daughters, one of whom is the wife of the Rev. R. H. Reilly, Vicar of Bishopton.—*Newcastle Daily Journal*, August 22nd.



At the Lambeth Police Court last week Alice Clark was charged with collecting money in the street without having obtained a permit from the police, and fined 20s. She had, it appears, replied to an advertisement for collectors by "the Blind and Self-Help Society," being paid 25 per cent. of the amount she collected, plus 2s. a day for expenses. Any person who thus quarters herself on charity deserves to be fined, but the persons who ought really to be in the dock are the employers who send out these women to break the regulations. The address of the society was not given in the reports of the case, but it rather looks like Blackburn's latest enterprise, against which I have recently warned the public.—*Truth*, August 4th.

Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility of the views of his correspondents.]

BRITISH BRAILLE.

SIR,—Permit me, as one who has learnt the Braille system without assistance, and who has taught both sighted, blind and deaf blind, all of whom learnt without much difficulty, to say a few words with reference to the suggestions of the U. T. C. sub-committee.

2. I think that the suggestion of discontinuing the letter sign and the capital sign are a great advantage, as the former appears to have been, in my experience, the only pitfall or difficulty that any of my pupils have found in the whole system, and the latter is an unnecessary sign.

3. I also think it is saving of space in discontinuing the poetry-line sign.

5. I cannot see how any Braillist, either sighted or blind, can confuse the sign 2-6 with that of 2-5, as they are distinct to even the beginner's touch, provided, of course, they have their book straight in front of them, and I think these signs should not be discontinued.

6. If there be any alteration in the inverted commas, it appears to me that it would be preferable to use dot 2 at the beginning and close, as it would conform more to the practice in print than that suggested here, with perhaps the doubling of dot 2, in case of an inverted comma within an inverted comma.

8. I think with advantage the contractions for parts of words, being syllables, should be allowed in words where they occur, and thus reduce the space occupied.

9. I think it would be a great mistake to do away with the doubling of letters by using same in the lower position

12 and 13. I see no advantage by this suggested alteration.

14. The same remark applies here as to 5.

15. This suggestion brings us practically back to the old Braille.

I and my pupils have never experienced "the burden upon the memory."

There is no doubt in my mind that the Standard Dot system is dead, and the British Braille will come out top, but there are many points in which it might easily be improved.—Yours, &c., W. R. WADE.

CHESS.

SIR,—I beg through the medium of your columns to bring to the notice of those interested a new chess set, which is the latest outcome of Mr. F. H. Merrick's untiring efforts on the behalf of chess players. Mr. Merrick has supplied a very long-standing need, viz., a chess set both small in size and cheap in price.

It is, I think, generally admitted that with us—save in the case of a mental expert—the only entirely satisfactory way of meeting an opponent—seeing or otherwise—is by means of the employment of two

boards. The new board meets the requirements. Its size makes its admirably adapted for use, for instance, on the knee. Correspondence-players and problem-solvers will equally appreciate what a great convenience is the possession of several boards—a convenience hitherto very largely denied them by relatively high prices.

To provide a board and set of men at a minimum cost, without sacrificing perfect efficiency, has been the object in the present instance; and the result has been the devising of a chess set so simple in the manufacture that their author justly affirms that if need be, and given a few simple tools, the average man could easily supply himself with one by making it in his own home. Such a set, excellently made, and from the hands of a blind carpenter, Mr. Merrick is now ready to supply at the price of 1s. 6d. per set, post free. The board—which is provided with holes for captured pieces—measures $8\frac{1}{4}$ by 6, and is admirably finished. I recommend those interested to apply for a fuller description than can be given here to Mr. F. H. Merrick, Elvetham, Shepperton, Middlesex.

In concluding, permit me to take this opportunity of acknowledging to what a very great extent all we who are interested in chess are indebted to Mr. Merrick for the many varied and painstaking efforts by which he is always labouring to make the game a true source of pleasure and recreation to us.—Yours, &c., S. A. BROOKER.

RECRUITING.

SIR,—I was much interested in the first paragraph of “Matters of the Moment” in last month’s *Progress*, and thought my own experience with the recruiting authorities might be of interest to your readers.

On February 14th, 1916, I called at the local recruiting office and asked for an exemption from military service owing to my total blindness. My object in applying for this was to perhaps avoid trouble later on. Under the Conscription Act I was informed I could not get exempted unless I attested. This I said I was prepared to do, and was therefore taken in to the doctor. To my great astonishment I was passed for general service (my sight being overlooked), I was sworn in, and received the 2s. 9d. The following day I went again and claimed exemption, and this time I was given a rejection paper. On March 1st I received a notice calling me to join the Army on March 15th. I at once wrote to the recruiting officer, calling his attention to my rejection, and to my total blindness. To this I had a notice saying that a mistake had been made and not to take any further notice. On March 29th I had another notice, informing me that I must appear at once, or be liable to arrest as an absentee without leave. This paper I sent back, with the words added, “Get on with it.” I heard no more until July 3rd, when I was arrested, and discharged on the 4th. On the 5th I received yet another paper by registered post, calling me up for further examination on September 30th, with the option of appearing before a special medical board before that date by appointment. I think this record of “Army red tape” will take some beating.—Yours, &c., C. B. KEPPY.

The Wonders of Healing.

THE marvellous story now being unfolded in the columns of the daily press concerning the triumphs of surgery in the cases of thousands of men who have been severely wounded at the Front is one to call forth the deepest gratitude. Shrapnel and high explosives have gone as near as possible towards permanently mutilating great numbers of our brave lads; yet the skill of the best surgeons has triumphed over almost insuperable difficulties, to such an extent that a large proportion of maimed men will be able to return to civil life. We read of cures which border on the miraculous, and of the joining of limbs which seemed to be hopelessly shattered. Men with artificial legs and arms are taking to the bicycle, and others with broken nerves are completely restored. Perhaps the most wonderful thing of all is the practical creation of new senses for blinded men. The story of St. Dunstan's, one of several similar institutions, would be incredible if we were not absolutely certain of its truthfulness. On every hand we hear of the abounding cheerfulness of the patients who are under treatment. For this human counter-stroke to the infernal destructive work of war we cannot be too grateful. The men, of course, can never again be quite what they were before, but it is no little satisfaction to know that the greater part of their handicap has been overcome. By the way, we have not heard of Christian Science practitioners doing anything in this work of healing and mending! Yet they have had an unparalleled chance of justifying their boastful claims.—*The Christian*, August 24th.



Blinded Heroes' Day Result.

THE music hall profession has every reason to feel highly gratified at the excellent result which has attended its efforts to help along the good work being carried on by Sir Arthur Pearson at St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors. The idea of running simultaneous performances for this worthy cause at the halls throughout the kingdom was first mooted by Sam Mayo and Dick Burge, and enthusiastically taken up by Mr. Frank Allen, who, with the assistance of a committee, organised the work from Cranbourn Mansions. Several picture palace proprietors joined in the scheme, and in the provinces the receipts were considerably augmented in several centres by running a Blinded Heroes' Flag Day—a suggestion which emanated from Alfred Davies, the Press representative of Moss Empires. The majority of the performances were given during the first week in June, others were held at later dates down to last week. Mr. Allen informs us that the committee has already banked over £11,000, and there are still the returns for two or three recent matinees to be made, so that a round total of £12,000 is practically assured.—*Performer*, August 24th.



The National Institute for the Blind have For Sale a number of **Goat Skin Rugs** made by a blind man. They are beautifully made and are in a variety of patterns, each measuring 69 in. by 36 in., the price being Grey Rugs, 11s.; and Black Rugs, 11s. 6d. each.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE AUGUST NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—The Rescue of an Army, by E. Hilton Young, M. P., from *Contemporary Review*—The Heligoland Mistake, by Evans Lewin, from *Contemporary Review*—Drill, by Boyd Cable, from *Action Front*—Camphor from Dead Leaves.

Progress.—Editorial—Our Schools and the Trenches—An Italian Hustler—The Rabbit—Our French Page—Matters of the Moment—Sea-Girt Prisons—The Hero of Verdun—Correspondence—Grave and Gay—Question Box—Chess—How to take care of the Sick at Home—Knitting—Advertisements—Inset: Map of Salonika and the Greek Frontier—Supplement: "The Gold Bug" (Edgar Allen Poe), (*to be continued*).

Comrades.—Letter from Lady Mabel Smith and Poem to a Potato—Basil's Violin, by Mrs. Molesworth. Chapter IV. —Lines by Archbishop Trench—In Grade I. for the Little Ones—Stories of Pets in War Time, compiled by The Editor.

School Magazine.—The Miraculous Pitcher, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*to be continued*)—British Inventor who spared the Life of George Washington, by Hayden Church, from *Chambers's Journal*—Monthly Almanack—Kings in the Making—Mecca the Mystic—The Voyage of the "Valiant," a Serial Story, by E. Le Breton Martin, Chapters VIII. and IX., from "The Scout."

Braille Musical Magazine Supplement.—My Favourite Teaching Pieces, by Mr. Midgley—Music and Esperanto, by E. Newman, from *The Birmingham Daily Post*—A Sterndale Bennett Chronology, from *The Music Student*—Sterndale Bennett as a Royal Academy Boy, from *The Music Student*—William Sterndale Bennett, by Robert Schumann, from *The Music Student*—The Music of William Sterndale Bennett, by Thomas Dunhill, from *The Music Student*—"To the Reader," by Jeffrey Pulver, from *Musical Opinion*—A Grieg Chronology, from *The Music Student*—Editions of Grieg's Works, from *The Music Student*—Notes and News, from *Musical Opinion*.

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture by J. S. Kellett Smith, F.R.C.S., Eng.—The Proper Place for the Totally Disabled—More Benevolent Neutrality—Notes by the Way—Official Notices.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon type).—An English Woman's Adventures in the German Lines (*continued*)—When Warships get Battered—Billy Hughes—Greatest Clan on Earth.

THE LEICESTER ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND require the services of a thoroughly competent **Mat Maker**, partially or totally blind, to take charge of department and to instruct. Apply Manager, 50, Granby Street, Leicester.

Lady (36 years old), refined, well educated, offers her services in exchange for board, to teach Braille, read and make herself generally useful for work among the blind wounded, in an institute, hospital or private family. Apply for full particulars to Miss Bowman, The Manor, Long Compton, Warwickshire.

WANTED.—**Stainsby-Wayne Shorthand Machine.** Apply, F. C. H., The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, W.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

OCTOBER, 1916.

No. 10.

Editorial.

WE have received a publication entitled "The Proceedings of the 22nd Convention of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind," and there is so much that is of interest therein that we feel we cannot do better than give extracts from certain of the addresses contained in this volume. The first address by Professor Livingston Jenks contains the following:—

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. This remark, while not strikingly original, is yet singularly apropos to the present occasion because I have acquired that little knowledge of the needs and the problems of the blind which makes me dangerously desirous of settling all their problems off-hand. (Laughter.) I note that the Uniform Type Committee has made its report. The work has been long and arduous. Its investigations have been painstaking, they have been intelligent and scientific, but in my dangerous frame of mind, had I the power, I would have settled this long-mooted question without any investigation whatever. I would have settled it by ballot. I would have put three slips of paper in a hat; one labelled British Braille and one New York point, and one American Braille; then I would have asked a blind person to select one of them from that hat. (Applause and laughter.) And if he happened—if he happened to select the one labelled American Braille, that would be the system to be adopted. Perhaps I would also abide by the result had he chosen either one of the other two systems. But since this question has been approached in a more scholarly and a more scientific manner, I sincerely hope that the results—that the labours of this worthy committee will hasten the time when a single system of type will be chosen."

In the address made by Col. J. P. Irish is the following:—

"Why tell me that a blind man can't superintend an institution for the blind when Herreshof, a blind man, has built all the yachts that have defended America's cup in many races; when Perry, the commodore, a blind man yearning for knowledge, went half way around the earth in search of his degree as a doctor of philosophy.

"Blind men have been trained in surgery and have become famous and are performing capital operations; a blind man has sat for years as a professor of mathematics of Harvard University; a blind sculptor, in the state of New York, has produced on public contract and for public

orders statutory that stands the test of art applied by the most rigorous rules. Tell me that when all this has been done, and much more, a blind man can't superintend a state institution for the adult blind. California has demonstrated that he can, and that he does.

"I remember a deaf, dumb and blind boy—he was so from his birth—who knew his mother by animal instinct, and nothing else. He was brought at the age of fourteen to our institution, and Mr. Saunders took him to the shop, patiently taught him how to make brooms. To this boy that was what a college education is to the boy with all of his faculties. He learned what money was, and I remember when he was finally earning money he bought a broom machine, and set it up in his mother's cottage, and instead of being a burden became her support and his own."

From the address of President E. E. Allen there is a charming little story:—

"A rich man was once asked where the best school might be, and was told at Hampton.

"'Ah, but that is for negroes and Indians,' he exclaimed, 'and I cannot send my boy there.'

"'No,' was the reply, 'Your boy is white, and therefore the best school in the land is closed to him.' [The school at Hampton being famed for the facilities it affords.—Ed. B. R.]

Professor Howard R. Driggs gave a very charming address on live language, in the course of which he said:

"Literature that lives is born alive. The only kind of literature that can be born alive is the kind that we can pour our life into. This beautiful story is told of Bret Harte: He once wrote a little poem that found its way, as I remember, into the *San Francisco Examiner*. A lady who liked the poem very much came to him rather enthusiastically and said, 'Mr. Harte, this is the best poem you ever wrote. Why, I cried when I read it.' He turned to her calmly and said, 'Madam, that isn't at all strange, it isn't at all strange; I cried when I wrote it.' How many of you have ever cried when you wrote your compositions? Well, let me tell you something else: You will never make anybody cry unless the spirit of sorrow is in your soul when you pen your lines; you will never make anybody else laugh unless the spirit of laughter enspirits you while you speak or write.

"Words are not dead; they are living things; 'though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity I am as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.' You will never go into the spirit of live language by having boys and girls re-tell, imitate, reproduce. What we need in our language work is the spirit of creation, of construction, of production. Be it ever so simple, let the child speak the story of his own heart, just as Helen Keller wrote in letters that will never die, the story of her own life. That is my message on live language; I would have the child given in the school room the divine right of self-expression."

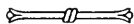
It is interesting to learn that the Californian State Library for the Blind has a collection of 4,600 books and music as well as writing

apparatus and games. They have a total of 713 borrowers located in all parts of the State, with a monthly circulation of about 800 in the winter and 950 in the summer. The increase of circulation in the summer is due to the fact that the students of the school for the blind are encouraged to read during the vacation, and most of them borrow from the time that school closes until their return.

The California State Library is peculiar in the number of books it has in the Moon type, the circulation in that type being larger than any other.

We have no space at our disposal in the present number of *The Braille Review* to include more than these few interesting facts from the volume of 70 pages, but in our next issue we propose to give further extracts.

We again remind our readers that December will see the last issue of our magazine as *The Braille Review*. In January we shall continue it under its new title, *The Beacon*.



New Lives for the Blind.

£11,000 FOR ST. DUNSTAN'S HOSTEL.

LORD DERBY, who was President of the Blinded Heroes Day's appeal of the music-hall profession, was present yesterday at a variety concert held at St. Dunstan's Hostel, Regent's Park, when Mr. Frank Allen, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, presented a cheque for more than £11,000—the proceeds of the "day"—to Sir Arthur Pearson.

Sir Arthur Pearson, acknowledging the gift on behalf of the 200 men in St. Dunstan's and the unknown number who would hereafter become inmates, said Mr. Allen had expressed a desire that the money should be devoted to the After-Care scheme, by which he and those who were associated with him would take on themselves to look after the men for the rest of their lives.

Lord Derby said that if ever he had to take an example of a man who had given his life-efforts to help those with whose feelings he could intimately connect himself, he should take Sir Arthur Pearson. How splendidly they had succeeded at St. Dunstan's was shown now, and would be shown in years to come, by those who came under Sir Arthur Pearson's care. To Mr. Allen they owed a very great debt. He had worked hard for this object as he had for others. Through him he wished to thank the members of the theatrical and music-hall professions who had done so much in getting this large sum together. Mr. Lloyd George had said, "Why should not England sing?" He was right. Let them be cheerful, and let them thank those who helped to make them cheerful. "There is no doubt," he continued, "that we are rapidly gaining ascendancy over our enemies. All the news that comes is satisfactory, and although the end has not yet come, it will come in the way for which all of you have fought."

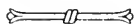
The work done at St. Dunstan's grows steadily in importance—and success. Not counting 20 or 30 officers who go there daily to learn something, for recreation or interest, there are 180 blinded soldiers now in the hostel.—*The Times*, September 22nd.

Liverpool Catholic Blind Asylum.

WE have received the Seventy-fourth Annual Report of the Liverpool Catholic Blind Asylum. In the year 1915 thirty-five men, seventy-seven boys, fifty-four women, and fifty-five girls, making a total of 221, were admitted. During the year nine men and four women left to earn their living, helped by the increased demand for labour. Five inmates left on account of their ill-health, and three returned to their relatives. The accounts show a credit balance on the year's working; the favourable state of the accounts is due to interest on the large donation of £10,333 16s. 6d. received in 1914, and to the increased government grant. The surplus income, it is anticipated, will disappear on the completion of the building of the school at West Derby, as a large sum of capital will thereby be absorbed and standing charges increased. In the meantime the pensions of children have been temporarily reduced from £22 to £20 per annum. The generous donor of the above-mentioned sum of money was the late Miss Houlgrave, of Waterloo. Subscriptions for the year 1915 amounted to £144 6s. 6d., as compared with £139 10s. 6d. for 1914, and the legacies and donations amounted to £594 7s. 7d., as against £10,652 9s. 2d. for the previous year. It is understood that the enquiry inaugurated in America as to the relative value of the different systems of Braille, has resulted in the decision that the English Braille system is the only one most suited for the requirements of the Blind. It is hoped that when this decision is put into active operation, it will result in the cheapening of Braille literature.

The looms, which were purchased some time ago, are in active operation, and turn out a substantial amount of useful material which is used in the asylum, but all the jerseys, stockings and socks, and a certain amount of children's woollen underclothing used in the asylum are made by the blind inmates. Also the mattresses and pillows are made and re-made when necessary.

A considerable number of wounded soldiers visited the asylum. They have been made specially welcome by the children, who have taught them Braille, netting and rug-weaving. The educational authorities are not authorised to pay for the training of children until these attain the age of five years, but the sisters are prepared to receive them at an earlier age when asked to do so—some have been admitted when under three. The benefit to children when admitted at such an early age is great, as their training commences before they have acquired habits which are difficult to eradicate in later years.



ONCE more the Germans are claiming as theirs a surgical discovery which was really practised in France as far back as the year 1880. This consists in grafting animal's eyes on to the human optic nerve and thus restoring the sight of many a man who might otherwise have remained blind for the rest of his life. As wonderful as the operation is, Dr. Fieuzal used to practise it with successful results whenever possible, and it seems a strange thing that it required the latest Teutonic boast to bring out these very interesting facts about ophthalmic surgery.

Our Wounded Heroes.

CARING FOR THE BLINDED.

WORK AT ST. DUNSTAN'S.

TO the question "Which are the victims of war's injuries who are most to be pitied?" it is probable that ninety-nine people out of a hundred would answer without hesitation: "Those who have lost their eyesight." A visit to St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, where these men are cared for, hardly tends to confirm that idea. St. Dunstan's, which has been described as "the most desirable residence in London," was built by Decimus Burton, the architect, for the "wicked" Marquess of Hertford, whom Thackeray has immortalised in "Vanity Fair." It stands in fifteen acres on the north-west side of Regent's Park, of which these beautiful grounds virtually form a part. In recent years it was the town residence of the Earl of Londesborough, from whom it passed into the hands of Mr. Otto Kahn. Mr. Kahn, a wealthy American citizen, has generously handed it over free of charge for the duration of the war and six months afterwards to the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee, of which Sir Arthur Pearson is Chairman. Never, surely, was there an happier idea, for Sir Arthur—himself, as is well known, a blind man—is keenly alive to the needs of those who are under the same disadvantage. As he has admirably put it, "they have to learn to be blind," and it is remarkable how quickly they do so under competent tuition. In this connection it is important to observe that the earlier the tuition begins the more satisfactory are the results. Among the wounded who come back from the front those who have lost their eyesight are sent to the military hospital at St. Mark's College, Chelsea, and after recovery from their wounds they are given the option of a prolonged stay at the institution in Regent's Park. Some refuse to avail themselves of this privilege, and return instead to their homes, but in the majority of cases these men find that they are only a nuisance to themselves and their relatives, and they write begging to be taken in. These are the most difficult cases to deal with, for when they arrive at St. Dunstan's they are almost as helpless as babies. Others who go there straight from the hospital adapt themselves far more readily to the great change in their way of life. But then this transition change, as it may be called, is made easy for them in a variety of ways. One of the first things one notices at St. Dunstan's is the liberal use that is made of long narrow slips of carpet, which run either straight or at an angle from door to door in the different apartments. The residents soon learn to distinguish by the tread the soft carpet from the bare boards, and thus they have no difficulty in finding their way unassisted from room to room.

But it is above all in raising the *moral* of the men in the early days of their new disability that the influence of this beneficent institution is most marked. First of all, they are taught not to look upon the infliction as an affliction, on themselves as helpless objects of compassion. What they are told is that they suffer under a handicap, serious, it is true, but one that can be overcome to a very large extent by courage and resolution. And there is not a single case in which that lesson is not taken to heart; whence it is that St. Dunstan's is occupied by quite a merry

party, so merry that some of our blinded heroes, whose nerves have been unstrung by shell fire, cannot stand the racket, and have to be packed off to "annexes" or convalescent homes at Torquay and Brighton. At St. Dunstan's one hears laughing and singing, and the sojourners therein in their leisure hours take the keenest interest in indoor and outdoor sports and pastimes. In the garden there is a lake where they go boating, and in the recreation ground there are swings, see-saws, a giant-stride, and other appliances for getting exercise. Swimming, too, is much favoured, and a good deal of time is taken up with physical drill. Recently a visitor who saw some of the men drilling was so filled with enthusiasm that he said "there are no blind men now." The statement, unhappily, was not true, but it had at least a grain of truth in it. There are, or there should be, in these enlightened days, no blind men who are mere helpless drones in the community. As regards the indoor amusements they are extremely varied. Every day there is a concert, in the afternoon in summer, in the evening in winter, and on one evening a week a discussion society meets. Another evening is set apart for dancing, of which the men are remarkably fond, each of them having the privilege of introducing a female relative or friend. Then the news is read out to them from newspapers, and, in short, everything is done to enable them to spend their leisure hours agreeably and in many ways profitably. Pianos and other musical instruments have been presented to the institution by kind-hearted sympathisers, and those men who show any talent for music are taught either singing or instrumental playing. This, however, comes rather under the head of tuition, of which some account must be given.

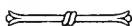
In teaching the blind, regard must be had for two important considerations. They must be taught a trade, if they have not already learned one, or if they have they must be put in the way of practising it in spite of their disability. But there is another sort of teaching which is not necessary, to many at least, from the point of view of earning a livelihood, but which is essential to their welfare. This is the learning to read and write in the Braille type. In order that a blind man may be able to write to another blind man he must write the blind characters, consisting of certain arbitrary arrangements of dots in relief. Of course the majority of the men can still write in the ordinary way when communicating with friends who can see, and they have special boards to write on which prevent the hand travelling beyond the edge of the paper, but experience has shown that as years roll on a blind man's power of visualising the letters he no longer sees grows more and more dim and uncertain. One half of the time devoted to study is given up to learning to read and write in the new fashion. This is a matter of some difficulty, and the ordinary man will be three months before he can get any real enjoyment out of his reading. There are, however, exceptional instances where an unusually clever learner has become quite proficient in a month. As soon as this stage is reached the blind man can read the news of the day for himself in the *Weekly Summary for the Blind*, and other organs issued in the Braille alphabet. Then he is provided free with the loan of books from the special circulating library of the National Library for the Blind. A few—very

few—of the blinded men have never been able to read nor write. In such cases the difficulties of the teachers are, of course, greatly augmented, but they persevere nevertheless, and, by all accounts, with satisfactory results. From reading and writing a number of the men proceed to learn shorthand and typewriting, these being for the most part men who before the war were engaged in some sort of clerical occupation. The typewriters are adapted in some respects specially for their use. Thus the letters indicating the spaces are embossed on the machine in the Braille characters. Some attain great proficiency, and they are said to be more accurate in the main than operators who can see, in accordance with the well-known principle that when one sense is wanting the other senses become keener. At a certain stage in their studies the learners enter an examination, and a man who passes this becomes the possessor of a typewriter of his own. One poor fellow has passed through the ordeal successfully in spite of a particularly severe handicap. Not only has he been blinded, but he has lost one arm and four out of the five fingers on his one remaining hand. There is not a cheerier man in the place.

Among the other industries in which instruction is given are joinery, boot-repairing, mat and basket making, telephone operating, massage, poultry farming, and market gardening. This work has necessitated the building of temporary wooden workshops at a cost of thousands of pounds. Some few men have even been trained to do diving work, although not on the premises. As this work is done in the dark, the blind man is fully as competent to do it as the man who can see. In one room a number of men are seen sitting round a table, at one end of which is a human skeleton. They are listening to a lecture on physiology, with special reference to the art of massage. After a preliminary course they are sent on to The National Institute for the Blind to finish their training. Eight men from St. Dunstan's have recently passed the final examination of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseurs, and all of them have secured appointments. The pay, as a rule, is £2 a week, which makes a very nice addition to the pension of 25 shillings a week which they get from the military authorities. In the section devoted to handicrafts each man is taught at least two occupations, in order to allow for the uncertainties of particular trades. Here beginners soon learn to make useful mats, baskets, picture frames, and a variety of other useful articles. Where necessary, special machinery and tools are employed. Thus the boot-repairers have a peculiarly constructed plane with a groove in it to enable them to cut the edges of the soles in a perfectly straight line, and there is a sewing machine which, when the cotton on a reel is exhausted, is automatically thrown out of action. Most of the teachers are blind men, a circumstance which, it is found, greatly encourages the learners to persevere. Some are junior teachers who have shown aptitude at the work. The instruction in poultry farming is of a thoroughly practical character, a corner of the grounds being devoted to incubators, "foster mothers," and so forth. The pupils are even taught to make hen-coops and other articles useful in the business.

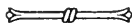
Finally, when a man's travelling is complete he is given a start in

life. It is the business of what is called the After-Care Department to see to this. Each man is started in business in a small way, at an average cost of from £30 to £35 a man. Those who take to poultry farming cost more, the outlay running up in some cases to as much as £60. Nor do the benevolent efforts in behalf of these deserving sufferers end even here. Trained instructors go round and visit them and suggest a way out of any difficulty that may arise, and, moreover, arrangements are made to take over a man's surplus of any particular manufactured article, and pay him for it at the actual price realised by its sale, clear of all deductions. In short, St. Dunstan's contrives in a great variety of ways to lighten the sufferings and ameliorate the lot of men who have deserved well of the State, while, at the same time, it has succeeded in solving a social problem which might have presented grave inconveniences and even dangers. All honour to the promoters and to the numerous voluntary workers in the good cause.—*Morning Post*, August 26th.



Maryland School for the Blind.

THE Maryland School for the Blind was established in the year 1853 by an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. It has been supported by donations from individuals and from an annual apportionment from the State. The school is designed for the education of blind children, and offers unusual advantages throughout the primary, grammar and physical courses. Quite a number of students have already completed a three years' course, which entails a great deal of concentrated study, and these have received teachers' certificates. The new buildings are pleasantly situated about five miles from the city limits. A blind person, of sound body and mind, of school age, actual residents of Maryland, the district of Columbia and Delaware, may be admitted free of charge. (This includes all those whose sight is so defective as to render their education in the public schools impossible). The regular visiting day at the school is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m. The public is most cordially invited to inspect the school. Parents are allowed at other times, but are expected not to interfere with the regular school arrangements. The school is strictly non-sectarian. Religious exercise is confined to the reading of the Bible, the singing of hymns and repetition in unison of the Lord's Prayer, and on Sundays the children attend the churches as their parents prefer.



A BLIND ORCHESTRA.—One of the best-known choral conductors in London discussed with me to-day the suggestion that the blind soldier who had a knowledge of a musical instrument might find a position in an orchestra. He is quite convinced that a blind choir could be established, and he told me that in one of his choirs before the war the most alert and responsive member was a blind man who had previously studied the score in Braille type. He saw no difficulty in finding a place in an orchestra for a few blind performers, provided that they had been pro-

fessional players before their affliction came upon them. If they had merely been amateurs previously he doubted whether, save in exceptional circumstances, their knowledge of technique would be sufficient to overcome the technical difficulties. There are several blind choirs in existence, and he was prepared to see the establishment of a blind orchestra.—*South Wales Daily News*, September 14th.



Causes of Blindness.

THE following figures as to the cause of blindness are taken from the private report of the Kindergarten Committee of the Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind. We gratefully acknowledge permission to publish them.

A return has been prepared by the General Superintendent showing the causes of blindness for the pupils who have been received into the Kindergarten and the Carpenter Road Institution, and who were born since 1895. These figures were prepared in two forms, viz. (a) pupils residing in the Birmingham area, and (b) pupils residing outside the Birmingham area. The following is a summary of the statistics referred to:—

Number admitted	(a) 97	(b) 151
PERCENTAGES OF CAUSES:		
Congenital Defect	1·03	15·23
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	39·17	27·81
Myopia	3·09	9·93
Keratitis	13·40	7·46
Atrophy	14·43	17·88
Cataracts	12·37	3·97
Choroditis	1·03	3·97
Ulceration	5·15	2·65
Albinism	3·09	·66
Iritis	1·03	1·98
Trachoma	1·03	—
Accident	1·03	1·98
Double Pan Ophthalmia	1·03	·66
Buphthalmos	3·09	4·63
Glaucoma... ..	—	·66

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Enquires have been made at the Health Department, and it is reported that no records of a reliable character were kept prior to 1912, which was twelve months after this disease had been made compulsorily notifiable. Before that time medical practitioners did not report to the Health Department any instances coming under their notice—only midwives did so. The following figures upon this subject, received from the Health Department, are very interesting:—

Year.	Number reported and treated.	Became totally blind.	Sight permanently damaged.
1912 ...	220 ...	1 ...	12
1913 ...	222 ...	3 ...	9
1914 ...	395 ...	... ..	5
1915 ...	314 ...	... ..	9

July, 1916.

Barclay Home for the Blind.

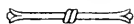
EXHIBITION AND SALE AT HOVE.

A two-fold object was served by the interesting exhibition and sale of work held yesterday at Mrs. Arthur Wagg's beautiful house in Adelaide Crescent, Hove. Not only will the proceeds of the sale help forward the noble work that is carried on in the Barclay Home and School for blind and partially blind girls in Wellington Road, Brighton, but the exhibition enabled the public to form a better idea of the wonderful things that the blind girls can do. Few would believe how beautiful are the dress materials woven on looms by busy hands, guided by a touch so sensitive that the surface of the cloth is not marred by one uneven thread. The tweeds, which recommend themselves for autumn wear, and so much resemble the famous Donegal and Harris suitings, are smooth and silky in texture, and the refinement and taste of colouring are beyond compare.

The billiard room and dining room of 2, Adelaide Crescent were thrown open for this exhibition, and in the absence of Mrs. Arthur Wagg, her daughter, Mrs. Elliott Wood, greatly helped in the organisation, and also took part energetically in the sales. Other ladies of the committee who devoted themselves almost all yesterday—the sale was open from 11.30 to 1 p.m., and from 3 to 6 o'clock—to the same good object, were the Hon. Mrs. Campion (founder of the Barclay Home), Mrs. Gordon Dill, Mrs. J. S. Sichel, Mrs. Allen West, Mrs. Pinto, Miss Lucy Holden, Miss Mavrogordato, and Miss Snowball (Matron). Great interest was taken in the display of knitted cardigans and socks for the soldiers, and there were some excellent sports coats for children; these garments, representing the newest colours, were of perfect shape and finish. Ladies' knitted sports coats can always be made to order at the Barclay Home, and if once the superiority of these cosy garments were realised a great many more orders would be placed with the Matron, at 27, Wellington Road. A nice collection of exhibits in the way of bath mats, boudoir rugs, aprons, and overalls, &c., came from the workshop in Edgware Road, London, where the blind girls who are taught at Brighton earn their own living, and are not only independent, but become valued citizens. This is a point of tremendous importance when it is considered that only a few years ago to be blind was also to be permanently helpless, and in the case of the poor, wholly dependent upon charity. In the early part of this year Lady Eadie lent her house at Hyde Park Gardens for a sale of goods made in the Edgware Road Home, and although it is said the weather could not have been more unpropitious, over £200 was realised.

The beautiful household linen woven in the Brighton Home by the blind workers attracted many purchasers yesterday. The autumn is a good time to replenish the linen closet, and thoughtful housewives know the value of these hand-made cloths, towels, dusters, &c., and their serviceable qualities, while, as they doubtless noticed, there is a commendable endeavour shown to keep the prices as near to those asked in the shops as possible. Some smart little luncheon cloths, following out a French idea, were a novelty of the exhibition. In these days of domestic economy the fact that a coloured cloth for luncheon and

afternoon tea will last clean longer than a pure white is worth considering, in view of the war increase on the laundry bill. These were seen in a variety of pretty colours, and are extremely dainty for wedding or other gifts, while if preferred they can also be made to order in white or cream. In the lustrine and canvas cloths for dress materials a disposition was also shown to copy the colourings of the French, and some wonderfully pretty results were achieved, but in the well-woven serges navy blue has had to give place to black on account of the dye problem.—*Sussex Daily News*, September 14th.



A New Life.

Is there such a thing as a new life? It seems hard to realise, but there is such a thing, and I shall try and place before you all in as few words as possible, the most dreaded of all new lives, that is the one of total blindness; also the good and evil influences at work in the same. Just imagine a young soldier, glorying in his youth, vigour, and manhood, proud of the fact that he is fighting for his country, often thinking that the fortune of war may deal out wounds or even death, scorning them both, he never dreams for one moment of that greatest of all wounds, total blindness. Suddenly in the heat of the action he is struck down; after lying there some hours he is picked up, carried to the rear, and placed in the hands of a doctor. Then commences a great fight, a fight between life and death; the young soldier, having forgotten that he took pride in his youth, strength, and manhood, and in the extremity of his pains not realising his blindness, puts up the same good fight that he did in the field.

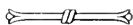
Gradually he recovers, and on being discharged from hospital, accepts an invitation to come to St. Dunstan's as an honoured guest, to learn a trade under the most skilled tuition it is possible to obtain, to enable him to fit himself once more to take up a position of independence, and to be as useful a citizen as ever.

Now he stands at the cross roads, facing the greatest crisis of his life. Which road shall he take? That remains to be seen, and here commences another contest, a contest between the good and evil influences of St. Dunstan's. Here we have a sighted staff, who devote the whole of their time and abilities to the hard task of trying to make his lot a brighter and happier one, endeavouring to restore to him by word and action that confidence which he has lost. The staff is but a small one, and have to attend to a large number of inmates, studying the characteristics of each individual, yet never too busy to notice a new arrival, and to do their utmost to make him feel thoroughly at home in his new surroundings.

He must remember that this new inmate is often in a very weak state, having suffered from a severe head wound, feeling low-spirited and despondent, and having to feel about for a chair when he requires one, moving from place to place with absolute lack of confidence. He wonders if he will ever regain that confidence, or attain what appears to him the almost utterly impossible—the pinnacle of skilled tradesmanship.

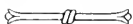
This has been noted by the members of the staff, and the good influences of the place get to work to save that man from himself.

We have proved our manhood in the past by fighting for our country in its hour of need, let us prove it in the future in the highest and truest sense of the word, by assisting each other as much as possible at the cross-roads to take the one that will lead to a life of prosperity and peace, and not to one of degradation and disgrace; thus proving to the world that the blind competitor is a serious factor in the business world, and return payment to our staff for their self-sacrifice and devotion, not in cash, that we can never do, but by showing them that we appreciate their efforts, and will do our best in the future to prove we have been worthy of the same.—A SOLDIER, *St. Dunstan's Review*, September, 1916.

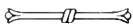


A Blind Hero and a Brave Girl.

A FINE example of a woman's fidelity, coupled with a soldier's heroism, has come to light at Holbeach. Corporal Brown, of Holbeach, went out to fight, and an exploding bomb robbed him permanently of the sight of both eyes and of one arm, besides inflicting other injuries. During six months' residence at St. Dunstan's he has been trained to earn his living at poultry farming. His sweetheart, Miss M. Taylor, is as anxious to marry him as when he was a fine young fellow not maimed by the war, and it has been arranged that they shall wed and set up as poultry rearers, if possible in the neighbourhood of Holbeach, where they are known. Miss Taylor is giving up a good situation for the purpose. All they want is a four or six-roomed house in or near Holbeach with a rood of land suitable for their purpose, and efforts are being made to supply their need.—*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, Sept. 25th.



THERE are two schools in Paris for the teaching of massage to blinded soldiers, one at the Grand Palais, the other at the annexe of the Quinze-Vingts, a hospital for the blind. The method of instruction employed is that of Dr. Guilbert, which is based on the principle that the blind are the best teachers of the blind. The first step, therefore, was to train a number of teachers. The pupil places his hands lightly on those of the instructor and follows their movements, and the teacher, by touching the elbow or shoulder of the pupil, notes any errors in execution. To supply the anatomical knowledge required for efficient massage, a series of thirteen plates in relief has been prepared with the help of orderlies who before the war were skilled sculptors.—*British Medical Journal*, 23rd Sept., 1916.



THE annual election of £10 annuities on the Rev. W. Hetherington's Charity for the Blind will take place in November. Application forms are now obtainable from the Clerk, Christ's Hospital, 26 and 27, Great Tower-street, London, E.C. Applicants must, among other things, be over 55 years of age and have been totally blind for at least a year. Beggars and those who have ever received parish relief are not eligible.—*The Times*, Sept. 26th, 1916.

Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility of the views of his correspondents.]

BRITISH BRAILLE.

SIR,—Can you please tell me if I am right in my conclusions why Braille is pre-eminent among the types used by the Blind? (I have little knowledge of facts, and no mathematical or scientific knowledge to prove my reasoning, and no means of research.) Firstly, Braille holds the pre-eminence because it is a point-type—that is, a type where the outline of the character is broken up into dots. Secondly, that the group of dots—six in number—is arranged in vertical position. Mr. Ford said, “A third base system is a retrograde movement.” It has occurred to me that Mr. H. M. Taylor, or some other able gentleman could demonstrate this by an article in “Progress.” How far am I correct in the following supposition, that it was owing to the Romans up ending, so to speak, the writing space occupied by the Egyptian and Chaldean symbols, that Roman letters maintained their pre-eminence when once adopted; and it is for the same reason that Roman letters developed into the types of to-day. Who would think of laying our modern ink type in a horizontal position? In the Roman alphabet do not the letters M and W correspond to the Braille compound signs, rather than to a third base position? By what I can remember the Chinese characters are higher than they are wide. The biography of Mr. Hill-Murray contained a reference as to how he showed his new Chinese Braille characters in ink press—by connecting the dots with lines: thus giving a character in continuous outline—adapted to the requirements of vision—whereas a character printed in dotted outline would confuse the vision. A character embossed in dotted outline does not confuse the sense of touch, but quickens it. I feel sure Louis Braille founded his type on some bed-rock principle that makes it stable for all time. I should like to have some answer to these things, and it would greatly interest and oblige yours, etc., RICHARD H. HURST.

THE TYPE QUESTION.

SIR,—In the current issue of your most valuable journal appears a letter on the “Type Question,” whose tone of unyielding conservatism struck me most forcibly, and has impelled me to solicit your indulgence for a moment while I state the position of Canadian Braillists on the points at issue. I may say that I was present as the representative of the Canadian Free Library for the Blind at the meeting of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind, when it was decided to ask the co-operation of the British Committee in an attempt to clear up the present unsatisfactory situation. I may say therefore that the opinions and wishes of both the American and Canadian members of the Association are known to me, and I believe I am here voicing the opinion of all, but of Canadians in particular.

Let me begin by stating that most Canadians are out-and-out advocates of British Braille as it now stands exposed in Grades I. and II.,

that Grade III. is but little known here, and is looked upon with disfavour by a considerable section who regard the introduction of this highly complicated addition to an almost perfect system as a deplorable mistake. In this one regard we find ourselves in perfect accord with the Americans.

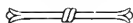
With regard, however, to Grade II., we should have preferred that the amendment of Supt. Dowe, of Minnesota, had been adopted, since it called for the adoption of the British system as it now stands with no reservation. But this amendment was defeated, and the recommendations of the Uniform Type Commission carried as they stood. We thus found ourselves at a point in the road where a by-path runs into it: are we to continue along the straight way, or allow an important body to branch off? For Canadians there was but one answer: we must try to keep the whole column marching as a unit, and the way to do this was to vote for concession and compromise.

Do the blind of Great Britain fully realise what this question means to Canada? I sometimes think they do not. Consider our position soberly for a moment. Allied to Britain by political and sentimental ties, we are nevertheless in many essential ways a part of the great system which controls the republic to the south of us. Our money is the same, our business is so closely interwoven with that of the United States that it is impossible to find a mark of cleavage. Our newspapers are conducted on American lines, our books are, for the most part, printed by Canadian houses in affiliation with American concerns, our educational systems are largely influenced by American models—in short, in everything but tradition, political and sentimental union, we are American.

Placed thus closely in alliance with a foreign country, our blind have been the heaviest sufferers from the stupid confusion in the type realm. If we wished to get all we could out of opportunity, we had to learn three literary and two musical systems. When this national library for the blind was founded, its book appropriations must be divided and sub-divided into many minute parts, so as to be able to meet the needs and wishes of the blind of the nation. And this will always be the case until the Type Question has been finally settled to the satisfaction of all parties. When the Canadian delegates voted at Halifax with the American majority, it was in the hope and in the belief, that the British system would triumph over American prejudice. And how? By the innate sense of fairness in the British nation. We could not believe that, for the sake of retaining a few signs whose abolition would make a gap about as perceptible and permanent as a hole in the water, you of the Mother Country would miss your opportunity of solidifying the various elements which go to make up the "Blind Question" in the English-speaking world, and run the almost certain risk of not only antagonising our American cousins into a position of irreconcilable hostility, but of gradually compelling Canada to throw in her lot with the enemy, impelled thereto by geographical proximity and the sheer weight of mass.

And I beg leave to think that Canada is worth considering as a factor in the situation. We are not always to remain a numerically insignificant part of the Empire, but shall from now on rapidly increase

in population and importance. Any large accession of general population unfortunately means considerable additions to our blind citizenship. It is worth considering whether the Canadian blind of the future are to be educated under the influence of a British or an American system. The attitude of uncompromising hostility to any important concessions exhibited in the letter mentioned above strikes most harshly upon the sense of Canadians who will be in any future dispute, as they have always been in the past confusion, the party to suffer the greatest loss. Let me therefore ask the British Uniform Type Committee to remember that their opportunity (an opportunity which may never come again) has come, and that the way to make the most of it is by taking the golden mean of compromise.—Yours, etc., S. C. SWIFT.

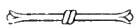


Mr. Wells, "Tank" Prophet.

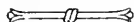
Mr. H. G. Wells is, indeed, a prophet. Every one is talking about the all-triumphant and terrible "tanks," which have scared the Boches and brought joy to the hearts of all the Allies, to civilians and military alike. It is, therefore, interesting to know that Mr. Wells foretold the coming of these weird monsters in a story he wrote some ten years ago.

It is entitled "The Land Ironclads," and appears in "The Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Gift Book," and a very thrilling and interesting yarn it is. "The Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Gift Book" is the artistic and popular volume published by Messrs. Jarrold and Son for the benefit of Sir Arthur Pearson's hostel for our blinded heroes at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park.

Mr. H. G. Wells' story of the "tanks" should cause a big demand for the book containing it, and all purchasers will know that they are directly helping a good and worthy cause.—*Leeds Mercury*, Sept. 27th, 1916.



SUCCESSSES OF PUPILS OF THE EXETER BLIND INSTITUTION.—Louisa May Gooding and John Percy Lewis, pupils at the West of England Institution for the Blind, have been awarded Gardner Trust Scholarships of the value of £40 per annum, which will enable them to proceed to the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, to continue their musical studies.—*Western Times*, August 13st.



ZEPPELIN Relics found at Cuffley which have been displayed by two Harringay tradesmen, will be sold at a Tottenham fête, organised to assist St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded soldiers.—*Hornsey Journal*, Sept. 22nd, 1916.

Superior Home offered to blind ladies, gentlemen, or delicate blind children, Home comforts, kind consideration, the attendance of a nurse if necessary. good house and garden, airy bedrooms, Braille books, and instruction in Braille if desired. Terms, from 30/- a week.—Miss LOWTHIAN, 27, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

WANTED, post as **Companion** to blind lady or gentleman, typist, walker, reader. Excellent references.—K. KING, 6, Deerings Road, Reigate.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE SEPTEMBER NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—An American Ambulance in the Verdun Attack, by Frank Hoyt Gailor, from the *Cornhill Magazine*—Forests of Russia, by E. P. Stebbing, from *The Times* Russian Section—Do Animals make Mistakes? by F. G. Allalo, from *Chambers's Journal*—Poor Death! by Filson Young, from *The English Review*—Mussel.

Progress.—Matters of the Moment—Brusiloff (Hamilton Fyfe)—Life on 5s. a Week—Our French Page—Our Prize Competition—The Corrupt Court of Austria—Correspondence—Nature's Little Jokes—Birds and Beasts in the War Zone—Grave and Gay—Poultry for Pleasure and Profit—Question Box—Chess—How to take care of the Sick at Home—Our Home Page—Advertisements—Supplement: "The Gold Bug" (Edgar Allen Poe), (*concluded*).

Comrades.—Basil's Violin, by Mrs. Molesworth. Chapter V.—Broken Toys, by Florence Tylee—A Week's Work on a Farm, by The Lady Mabel Smith. In Grade I.—The Spider's Lesson, by John Brougham.

School Magazine.—The Miraculous Pitcher, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*concluded*)—Earl Kitchener, *The School Paper* (Melbourne) Monthly Almanack—Gibraltar in War Time, by Augustus Muir, from *Chambers's Journal*—His Majesty's Jollies—Paper Cables for Battleships—The Voyage of the "Valiant," a Serial Story, by E. Le Breton Martin, Chapters IX. and X., from "The Scout."

Braille Musical Magazine Supplement.—"Musical News Comments" from *Musical News*—Russian Soldier Songs, by Rosa Newmarch, from *The Times* Russian Supplement—Our Tuner's Column—Review: New Cathedral Psalter—The Music Trades Benevolent Society—July Notation Meeting—Royal College of Organists' Examinations—A Retrospect, by Dr. F. Bates—The Mathematics of Tuning—Insets: "Boyhood" (Idylle) Piano, C. Couldery—"Dans Les Vallées (Bagatelle), Piano, C. Couldery—"Sunrise" (Second Bagatelle) Piano, C. Couldery—"Devon, O Devon" (Song), C. V. Stanford—"Meg Merrilies" (Two-Part Song) C. V. Stanford.

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture by Edwin L. Ash, M.D., Lond.—How to Work for an Examination—Herb Growing for the Nation—Official Notices.

* * * *

The Moon Magazine (in Moon type).—An English Woman's Adventures in the German Lines (*continued*)—Fighting Men's Nicknames—Tommy's Pocket Harmonium—Invest Your Money in the War Loan.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

There is a vacancy for an **INSTRUCTRESS OF HANDICRAFT** at the Elm Court School for Elder Blind Girls, Court Road, West Norwood, S E. The candidate selected will be required to teach basket-work, chaircaning, hand-knitting, typewriting and machine sewing.

Salary £80 a year, rising to £100 by yearly increments of £4.

Apply to Education Officer (S.S.6), Education Offices, Victoria Embankment, W.C. (stamped addressed foolscap envelope necessary). A form giving particulars will then be sent. Form must be returned by 11 a.m. on Thursday, 12th October, 1916. Canvassing disqualified.

JAMES BIRD,

Clerk of the London County Council.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

NOVEMBER, 1916.

NO. 11.

Editorial.

LAST month we gave some extracts from the proceedings of the 22nd Convention of the American Association of Instructors for the Blind, and this month we think it might interest our readers to give further extracts from the same Report.

As regards the work of the California State Library for the Blind, the Library was established in December, 1904, and the first object of its promoters was "to find out what the blind of the State wanted, and to accomplish this we sent out printed blanks asking for information about the types read and the class of books wanted. These blanks were sent to all whose names were given in the 1900 census, and to those about whom we heard in response to newspaper notices. When these blanks had been returned, and the data compiled, we had a good working basis for ordering our books, and for that reason we were able to get what the blind themselves really wanted, not just what we thought they ought to have.

"In June, 1905, after spending six months in getting information, in ordering books and receiving them, we were ready to begin lending, and on announcing that fact in the newspapers and through notices we were rewarded immediately by the request for books from a lady ninety years old, residing in Sacramento.

"Our books are loaned merely on request, no guarantee of any kind being required. Ink print catalogues are sent to inquirers with a stamped addressed call slip for requests. Our endeavour has been to make the process of borrowing as simple as possible for the borrower. We pack the book first in corrugated board, covering that with strong brown paper, on one end of which is pasted the tag addressed to the borrower, and on the other end the return tag addressed to the library. When the book goes out the paper is folded so that the borrower's address tag is on the inside, and when the book is returned the wrapping paper is merely folded differently so that our address comes on the outside. We do not feel that this corrugated board and the wrapping paper is an ideal way of packing, but at least we have not seen any other plan that answers our requirements any better. It has, among other points, the advantage of being so simple that our borrowers can in most cases tie up their own packages for return, adopting their own devices for keeping track of which label is the one that must go on the outside.

"We find that a State-wide circulating library for the blind has to

fill many needs. It has to satisfy the general adult reader who likes fiction and history and travel; the young reader, home from school, eager for vacation stories; the elderly borrowers, many of whom want the Bible over and over, and scientific books as well as fiction. Besides these classes there is the borrower who has unusual needs, like law books, books on stenography and wireless telegraphy, needs that are hard to satisfy. During the last few years we have had the very special problem of the students who are attending schools with the seeing. We have no public schools in California that have made provision for blind students, but several are attending nevertheless, and making a success of the venture. These students in high schools and in elementary schools need text books of all kinds, and write to us for them. Our part is then to get all such books as are already in type, but too often we cannot get them, and it taxes all our ingenuity to find substitutes. We want to help these students in every way we can.

"I have spoken of our 700 borrowers as being scattered throughout the State, but some of them are outside of California, as we serve a few in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and Honolulu, besides the Institution for the Chinese Blind in Shanghai, China. This is because we are the library for the blind nearest these inquirers, and, like all other such institutions, we try to distribute our collection as far as it is needed. Often when we are asked for books from other States we are uncertain as to whether that State has any library facilities or not.

"I have said that we have books in all types, but I think that the California State Library for the Blind is peculiar in the number of books it has in the Moon type. Our circulation in that type is larger than in any other, and the amount of pleasure and satisfaction that the reading gives our elderly borrowers cannot be measured in mere figures. I think the possibilities of the Moon type are too often overlooked by the librarians in their eagerness to get books for the younger, more insistent readers.

"We try to make service the keynote of our Library for the Blind. We do not want to force interest in this type or in that, or in any certain class of books. When we select books for a borrower, who does not care to do it for himself, we try to choose just the ones best suited to that borrower's taste and liking. When we buy books we select those along the line that have been most popular, and always try to order every book that is asked for. The co-operation and appreciation of our borrowers make us feel that they realise we have tried to make the California State Library for the Blind really belong to them, and have built it up according to their own ideas and wishes."

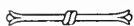


THE next Examination for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., will be held from the 2nd to the 4th December inclusive. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the 1st December, 1916, must be resident in England and Wales, and make application to the Principal on or before the 20th November.

Appeal on Behalf of the Blind.

AN appeal on behalf of the Irish blind has just been issued from The National Institute for the Blind (Irish Branch), 66, Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin. It will be a revelation to not a few to hear that we have more than four thousand totally blind people in Ireland, and over thirteen hundred partially blind. Of these, only about six hundred are cared for by our homes, institutions, and workshops, while our workhouses absorb at least an equal number, the great majority of these latter being there through no fault of their own. It is appalling to think that of the total blind in Ireland about one-seventh are obliged through the severe handicap of visual affliction to spend what is left to them of their dark, dreary days within the drab walls of the workhouse, and about five-sevenths of the total number—many of whom are in straitened circumstances—are living in their own homes or lodgings. A number of these are receiving weekly grants from the Institute, and we do not wish to give up helping these deserving cases, but we must have more funds to continue this work. In appealing for funds, the pamphlet says: "We have many blinded soldiers and sailors who have lost their sight in the war, and they are being educated 'to be blind' by training in different trades, . . . and it is my cherished hope that I may live to see the day when every blind person in Ireland will be cared for by someone."

Several ways are indicated by which the public might with great advantage to the Institute help to provide funds for the care and education of their less fortunate brethren. The Secretary for Ireland, Mr. William Rochfort Wade, M.A., is prepared to give lantern lectures throughout the country during the autumn and winter months, dealing with the work carried on by the Institute, and showing what has been accomplished by the blind in the past, what is being done in the present, and what can be done in the future, provided, of course, the work is not held up through want of the necessary funds. You can help this good work by giving a donation, by becoming an annual subscriber, by bequeathing a legacy to support the blind, by taking a collecting card and approaching your friends for a contribution, by arranging for a lantern lecture in your district, and in several other ways, including the holding of special collections in the churches (for The National Institute for the Blind is in every sense of the word National, in that it lends the helping hand to the afflicted of all creeds, classes and politics). Those of us who know not the tragedy of this the greatest of all human afflictions should see to it that the great work carried on by this organisation) the President of which is Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart.) shall not be handicapped in any particular by the gnawing teeth of poverty.—*Irish Life*, Oct. 13th.



Blinded Soldier Shorthand Writer.

SIR,—A great many visitors to St. Dunstan's and other kindly folk who have not been here, but have written to me about the methods of training men who have lost their sight at the front, have expressed scepticism as to the possibility of a newly-blinded man making good as a

shorthand writer and typist. One letter I particularly call to mind. It was from a wealthy individual, who stated that he should have been glad to have forwarded a handsome subscription to St. Dunstan's, but for the fact that he understood that we went in for such theatrical nonsense as pretending to teach blinded men to be shorthand writers and typists.

I confess that to me, accustomed as I am to the uncanny expertness of the blind, this ability of theirs to write shorthand is still amazing. Typewriting, I know from my own experience, to be quite simple, but the acquisition of the Braille system of shorthand does really make unusual demands upon the intelligence, and one would imagine that years would be required for its mastery.

Here is a copy of a letter which I received two days ago from Harold Flett, late private in the 1st/7th Battalion Manchesters, who was totally blinded at the Dardanelles on June 8th, 1915, and who was at St. Dunstan's for eight months. He is now employed by the United Yeast Co., of Clerkenwell, E.C., at whose Manchester branch he held a position before joining the Army:—

To Sir Arthur Pearson.

Dear Sir,—As I am now in my fourth week at business, I thought perhaps you would like to hear how I was progressing. Let me begin by saying that I have done very well indeed—far better than I had expected. My shorthand speed has proved quite sufficient and my typewriting has been well up to the mark. Indeed, I have on two occasions been described as the best typist in the office.

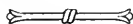
At first I was not given much to do, but during the past fortnight I have been well occupied all through the day. My wage has been fixed at 30s. per week, with an extra bonus at the end of each month to cover the extra cost of food.

For the benefit of future shorthand typists from St. Dunstan's, I feel quite justified in saying that I have proved of some worth to the firm and not a war curiosity.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you and all the generous helpers at St. Dunstan's for making me fit and able to earn my living, and to be of some use, however small, in the world.—Yours, very sincerely,

(Signed) HAROLD FLETT.

I add no comment, for I think none is needed. I hope your readers may rejoice with me at this proof of the efficiency of a blinded soldier, one, I may say, of many.—Yours, etc., ARTHUR PEARSON, Chairman Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee, St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, N.W.—*The Globe*, Oct. 9th.



Blindness in Industrial Life.

AMONG the many activities upon which The National Institute for the Blind has recently embarked, we are confident that there is none which will more readily commend itself to our readers than the scheme which is being launched to make provision for those who lose their sight whilst engaged in industrial occupations.

It may not be generally known that more than two hundred of these cases take place annually, and the only means at the disposal of those who are so suddenly thrust into the world of the unsighted are the scanty provisions of our Poor Law system.

Moreover, the recipient of such relief is immediately called upon to forfeit his citizenship, and those of us who realise the full significance of

such humiliation cannot fail to whole-heartedly welcome the construction of more efficient and humanising efforts to provide a solution for this problem.

Something has previously been said in a recent number of "Progress," concerning an appeal which is being made to Trade Union organisations for money to assist the National League of the Blind to strengthen and develop the principles for which the society stands: it must be understood, however, that The National Institute for the Blind has also made a strong and urgent appeal to the workers of the country for the means to enable us to make immediate and liberal provision for those who are at the moment experiencing all the economic disadvantages of blindness.

Our efforts, despite much misrepresentation, are meeting with remarkable success, and already from the funds at our disposal we are making substantial provision for a number of these cases until facilities can be provided for efficiently training and subsequently employing those who come within the scope of the Scheme.

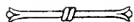
We have arranged to guarantee a minimum of £1 per week in all such cases, without sex barrier, and we are pleased to be able to state that this liability is being loyally discharged.

To put the position briefly, our objects may be described as being of a two-fold character, viz. (a) To make adequate provision for all persons losing their sight in industrial occupations, and to provide facilities for imparting a thorough training to each individual according to his capacity; (b) to guarantee maintenance, not merely to the individual undergoing instruction, but also for those who otherwise would be dependent upon the results of his industry, until such time as he is fitted to again resume his former responsibilities.

It will be seen that this phase of the work is after all but one section of the great "After Care" Scheme, contemplated by the Council of the Institute; that it will make a substantial contribution towards the solution of an important and pressing social problem will generally be conceded.

No organisation is better fitted to essay this task than is The National Institute for the Blind.

BEN PURSE.

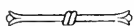


A St. Dunstan's Limerick.

A horizontal rail a few feet from the floor surrounds the workshops at St. Dunstan's in Regent's Park. It serves as a guide for the handicapped heroes. One of the latter wrote the following limerick about it:

At St. Dunstan's we walk by a rail,
Which we follow up hill and down dale;
But whenever we stumble
We growl and we grumble,
And the words are not written in Braille.

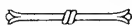
—*Daily Mirror*, October 9th.



THE blind Moscow Jew, M. Broido, recently graduated as lawyer and applied for permission to be enrolled as Assistant Advocate. The Ministry of Justice refused to comply with his request, but the Tsar sanctioned his appointment, which was warmly supported by the famous Deputy, Advocate Maklakoff, who admitted M. Broido, lawyer, into the service of his firm.—*Jewish Chronicle*, September 29th.

A New Artificial Eye.

NCESSITY, as we have it in the proverb, is ever the mother of invention; and it is remarkable how great crises quicken the activity of men's thoughts. How far the war has permanently added to the world's improvements will be an interesting subject hereafter to the philosophical historian; but the least observant amongst us must be struck with the great strides that are being made in the adaptation of means to ends. In the personal domain, so to speak, nothing has been more wonderful than the new uses of surgery, a fact which is impressed on us just now by the curt announcement that in all probability the "glass eye" is doomed to disappear. Two French workers, it is said, have evolved an entirely new artificial eye which is soft and elastic, responds to the ocular movements, does not irritate the socket, and is unbreakable. This is a most important extension of the new science of facial surgery, which has accomplished marvels in the way of restoring the human countenance after the grim shatterings of cruel war-fire. The wonders accomplished in the education of our blinded soldiers is the constant theme of people who are in touch with Sir Arthur Pearson's work at St. Dunstan's. That men who have been deprived of what Milton called the "prime degree" should be turned into expert shorthand writers and typists is surely a great triumph to this great humanitarian, whose fellow suffering has made him "wondrous wise."



BRIGHTON AND HOVE HOME LIFE EXHIBITION.—Of special interest to Brighton and Hove is the stall exhibited by the Barclay Home for the Blind and Partially Blind Girls. Some bright rugs woven in the home strike the eye from some distance off, and one of the blind workers is seated at her loom weaving linen for household use. Seasonable tweeds for winter wear are shewn on the stall, and among the linen novelties are some nightdress sachets, which suggest an ideal Christmas present. Coloured lunch cloths are another attraction, and "comforts for the troops" include well-knit socks and mittens, and a sock and puttee combined, which conduces towards a healthy circulation, and would be a sure preventive against trench feet during the coming winter campaign. The ladies of the Committee, assisted by Miss Eide, undertake the sales each day, and yesterday afternoon Mrs. Henson Infield was able to gain some new friends for this splendid Brighton industry. The Brighton War Savings Committee and the Hove War Savings Committee have combined with a very attractive exhibit. This demonstrates John Bull sending money to the Post Office and receiving the script promising 5 per cent. The money meanwhile changes into munitions and reaches the men in the trenches. The model was made in the Technical College by Mr. Weir, and decorated under Mr. Bond's direction at the Brighton School of Art. Some appropriate verses are supplied by Mr. Stanley West, our local poet. The pleasures of the exhibition were enhanced yesterday afternoon by the fine concerts given by the Brighton Municipal Orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Lyell-Taylor.—*The Sussex Daily News*, October 17th.

Durham County Institute for the Blind.

THE much improved financial position of the Sunderland and Durham County Royal Institute for the Blind was emphasised at the annual meeting of subscribers and friends at Sunderland yesterday. Mr. T. W. Backhouse presided over a good attendance.

The report and balance-sheet for the year ended June 30th stated:—"The year under review has been the most momentous in the Institute's 39 years' existence. It opened with financial conditions of a most serious kind, and it closed with the institute in a position of almost unhopd-for prosperity and safety. This great change is due to the splendid results of the recent public appeal.

"When this was made the current debts exceeded £4,000, and there was a mortgage of £2,600 upon the buildings, whereas now the institute has no debts beyond some £600 due to current creditors, and there is a surplus of assets over liabilities of £6,700.

"The committee takes this opportunity of putting on record its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Samuel Storey, Mr. T. W. Backhouse, Sir C. Arthur Pearson, and all the other donors who helped to create the present satisfactory position."

The financial statement showed the net sales for the year to be £3,733, upon which there was a profit of £146. The balance sheet gave the total assets as £7,292, and the only real liabilities were £593. Mr. Samuel Storey's recent special effort resulted in £7,446 being raised, with the result that the excess of assets over liabilities was now £6,698.

The committee stated that they were setting aside funds to supplement the earnings of those of their workers who were not able to make a decent living.

The newly-elected president, Mr. Samuel Storey, wrote regretting that he was unable to attend owing to his doctor's orders. He stated in his letter:

"For the first time in its history the institute is free of debt. As to the future, the great difficulty of semi-philanthropic institutions like this is to make them self-supporting. I scarcely think that the institute can be put quite in that position. There are two items, namely, the managership and the accountantship and auditing, which must probably be otherwise provided for. These amount to roughly £250 per annum, which sum will have to be provided by permanent subscriptions.

"I shall be very glad to give £25 a year towards this, and probably the chairman may see his way to do likewise, in which case I think the remainder of the sum might be obtained through a limited number of hands and the necessity for hawking about for small subscriptions avoided in future."

The Chairman said that he believed no institute of this kind was able to make itself entirely self-supporting. The institute was started with the hope that it would be self-supporting, and that was largely the reason why it got into so much debt, which happily now had been wiped off. A good annual subscription list was still needed.

Mr. S. P. Austin urged that what the Institute also needed was more work and more representation on the Committee of the workers in the town and country districts.

The report and balance-sheet were adopted, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Storey for his recent successful effort.

A constitution was adopted, the committee being given power to add to their number.—*Northern Echo*, Oct. 4th.



Correspondence.

[We reproduce here any letters of general interest we may receive, whether specifically addressed to this Magazine or not. The Editor disclaims all responsibility of the views of his correspondents.]

AFTER-CARE OF THE BLIND.

SIR,—I am very glad to note that the N.I.B. has decided to devote special attention to the After-Care of the Blind, and I hope they will be most successful in finding employment for those who have put their names on the register. I have been taking the "Musical Opinion" since July, 1915, and I find that in each issue there are about thirty or forty vacancies for competent tuners. I made an application to a firm not far from here, and I was interviewed by a member of the firm. Now, as soon as he stepped into our kitchen, he told me that I was blind, but, of course, I didn't believe him, because I took him to be a practical joker. I very often meet with wisecracs. After he explained the nature of his work to me, I gave him my terms but they appeared to be rather too high for his liking; I think he wanted to get a day's work done for a loaf and a half pound of American cheese. He told me that he wanted to make something. Well, Sir, he was dealing with the wrong man, and I hope that every competent blind tuner will take a very firm stand against such men as he. He had been advertising for many months, and he only got two answers. The time was when he could get forty answers to one advert. It would be most interesting to know whether under present circumstances the music dealers make application to the various institutions for the blind to supply them with good tuners. When Mr. Leyton read his paper on Pianoforte Tuning at the last Conference, he told us that he could not obtain permanent employment in this country, and we are all agreed that he is a man of great energy. There are many blind tuners who occupy good posts at the present time, but I think that the majority of them do much better on their own connection. In my own mind I am quite convinced that there is a great scarcity of tuners; and I should advise the experienced blind tuners to make a personal visit to the music-dealers in the locality where they are well known. But my suggestion need not hinder the N.I.B. from doing all in its power to assist the blind person. And, furthermore, I hope that the N.I.B. will not play into the hands of any dealer who would make a convenience of a blind tuner for the sake of a very small salary. Now is our opportunity, and we must not fail to seize it. I will be greatly obliged if some of our tuners would communicate privately; and give me a list of the usual charges made to the trade for inside and outside tunings, and they will help me very much.—Yours, etc., J. CONNOR.

“My Blind Children!”

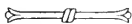
IN the *Weekly Dispatch* of October 15th there appeared an interview with M. Jean Worth, the head of the famous Maison Worth in Paris. The following is taken from the article :

“Shall I show you what I am selling with enthusiasm now?” Again he led me to another salon, where in a case were a variety of bags made of cord work, fine delicately tinted cords, intricately knotted over silk linings, with fringes or tassels to finish them artistically.

“These are made by my blind children,” he said quite softly, his dark eyes a little moist. “They are at work during the day; they have learned a trade, but at night they make these bags. They sit and knot these cords as one would play the piano, letting their fingers wander over the keys aimlessly, yet creating beauty.

“Here are my blind children. You shall see them, and you will no longer think of fashions”; and from out of his pocket he drew a postcard photograph of himself and two tall, stalwart soldiers, one on either side of him, and each with the great black glasses worn to hide eyes which are not only sightless but painfully, terribly disfigured.

In the background was that beautiful château, a little way out of Paris, where M. Worth lives, and where are gathered wonderful tapestries and rare old French furniture and china. Those two blind soldiers he has adopted and made his special care for the rest of their lives.



Girl Offers Eye to Blind Soldier.

A young girl in England has written to a French savant making an offer whose sublime grandeur it would hardly be possible to exaggerate. She says she will willingly be deprived of one of her eyes if by so doing she can be the means of restoring sight to a blind soldier. Dr. Rochon Duvigneau, chief of the Ophthalmological clinic at Laennec Hospital, some time ago expressed the opinion that it might be possible to graft a tiny fragment of human cornea on another human cornea, and so restore sight to a blind person. Learning of this magnificent possibility, the young girl heroine, who lives at South Shields, with noble selfishness determined to surrender one of her eyes. She therefore wrote to Dr. Rochon Duvigneau on September 24th, as follows: “Do you believe it possible to take the eye of one person and graft it on another? Do you believe it possible to enable two persons to see with only two eyes between them instead of four? If you believe there is one chance of success even in a million I am at your disposal. I will give you one of my eyes if you know of a soldier who has lost the sight of one of his while serving France, and to whom sight would be of special utility in the service of his country. I would prefer to give my eye to one to whom it would be essentially useful—a savant, inventor or officer of great value. If one of those men wishes to try the experiment and you consider it possible, I will be happy to give one of my eyes and shall consider myself under obligation to you, for you will have permitted me to be useful to my country, and it is the only means in my power of serving it.”—*Daily Mirror*, Oct. 3rd.

Obituary.

ARTHUR NIMMO WALKER, M.D.CANTAB.,

Lieutenant-Colonel R.A.M.C., Surgeon to the St. Paul's Eye Hospital; Ophthalmic Surgeon to the David Lewis Northern Hospital and to the School for the Indigent Blind, Liverpool; Ophthalmic Surgeon to Noble's Hospital, Douglas, I.O.M.

THIS war is bringing out the best and noblest characters of man, and seldom have these been better portrayed, and now sacrificed, than in the case of my dear friend and former pupil, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Nimmo Walker, who was killed in action on September 24th, at the age of 42 years. He was a distinguished student at Liverpool and a graduate of Cambridge University, where he took his B.A., M.B., B.C. in 1899, and M.D. in 1910.

I have known him since his childhood, and I have always held him in the highest admiration both for his character and ability. He acted in the Royal Infirmary as my house-physician, and I never had a more able or more conscientious assistant. I well remember on one occasion, after the death of a patient, he was much perturbed in mind by a fear that he had not done all that he might have done. When he spoke to me on the subject I had much pleasure in being able to assure him that if he had failed to save the patient, which I did not think was possible, he had in no way, either by omission or commission, contributed to the death—a death which I had looked upon from the beginning as inevitable.

Immediately after his tenure of office at the Royal Infirmary he volunteered for service in the South African war, and served as a civil surgeon for fully twelve months. He did splendid work, and in the regiment to which he was attached the rate of sickness was very low. At first his commanding officer rather looked upon him as a young faddist, and poolh-pooled his ideas of having all the water which the men drank boiled. He was soon converted when he found that the incidence of typhoid fever, which was then rampant, was very low in his regiment.

When Nimmo Walker returned from South Africa he intended to start in practice as a physician, but he soon found that the men who had stayed at home had picked up the chief plums, and there was no suitable vacancy left for him. It was always thus in this country, and yet you will still find men defending the principle of voluntarism in war whereby the best are sacrificed for the mediocre who never would be missed.

He then followed in his father's footsteps and took up the speciality of ophthalmology, of which he soon became a brilliant ornament and practical exponent. In his association with the School for the Indigent Blind he found that a large amount of blindness was preventable, and consequently took up with enthusiasm the subject of ophthalmia neonatorum. At first, I regret to say, he met with some opposition from his professional brethren, but Walker was not a man to be diverted from what he considered the path of duty and of righteousness by any opposition, although it might mean to him serious financial loss. His pioneer work has since been handsomely acknowledged.

Miss Van Blarcom, secretary of the Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, State of New York, was sent over to this country to study this subject. After giving a full account of Nimmo Walker's work, she said: "One could dilate at length upon the details of this admirable work, and the great care and thought with which it was planned, but the highest tribute that can be paid to it is to report that largely by this means the occurrence of blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum has been practically wiped out in Liverpool."

In the report of the Ophthalmia Neonatorum Committee of the British Medical Association it is stated: "The Liverpool plan affords an almost ideal method of grappling with a large proportion of the cases of infantile ophthalmia, and affords an excellent instance of what may be accomplished by co-operation between health authorities on the one hand and local hospitals on the other. The writer does not hesitate to suggest that what has been successfully initiated in Liverpool might well be imitated in London and other large cities."

On the formation of the Territorial Force, Walker joined the combatant ranks, and eventually became a major in a brigade of artillery. On the declaration of war his brigade was mobilised and spent twelve months in training at Sevenoaks. When there was a dearth of medical men at the front he was strongly urged to leave his battery and join the R.A.M.C. He sought my advice in the matter, and freely discussed the pros and cons. I pointed out that there was a real dearth of surgeons; the Conscription Act was not then adopted; moreover, I knew that his mother and the other members of his family wished him to join the R.A.M.C. He brushed the family wishes to one side, as he said they were influenced by questions of his safety. His wish was to know in what capacity he could do most for the country. If he were given ophthalmic work he had no doubt he was a better ophthalmologist than an artillery officer; but, on the other hand, if he were sent out in charge of an ambulance, it was such a long time since he had done any general surgical work that he had no hesitation in saying that he could do better work in the artillery. I ventured to offer the opinion that the War Office would show sufficient intelligence to put him to his own job. Regarding safety, that did not enter much into his calculation; if he were killed there was simply an end to his career, but, on the other hand, he acknowledged that if he were maimed for life it would be a very serious matter for him. He did not like to appear to his men (whom he had trained and for whom he had a real affection) to be now seeking a safe job, and if his battery had been then going to the front there is no doubt that he would have gone with it; but the battery had not then got the new guns, and there was considerable uncertainty as to whether it would ever go to the front, and a strong probability that it might be retained in the reserve in this country. This uncertainty was the deciding factor in making him change into the R.A.M.C. He was practically appointed ophthalmic surgeon to one of the large military hospitals in this country, but was displaced, and, by the irony of fate, Nimmo Walker was sent to the front in charge of an ambulance, first as major, but he was afterwards promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. A man of Walker's ability and tenacity soon mastered all the

details of his new work. His success is well shown in the numerous letters which his mother has had from the front, a few extracts from which I can publish without any breach of privilege.

The A.D.M.S. writes: "I have only known him since May last, but our association has been very intimate, as we saw each other daily, especially during the present great battle. I am not exaggerating when I say that Colonel Walker was my right hand man, and I trusted and respected him to the utmost. He was the soul of honour, as brave as a lion, beloved by his officers and men, and esteemed by everyone in the division. During the desperate fighting which ended in the capture of one of the enemy's strongest positions, he displayed conspicuous bravery, and I recommended him for the immediate reward of the D.S.O. I beg to offer you my very sincere sympathy, and I feel that later on it may be some consolation for you to know that your son died as he lived, endeavouring to save the lives of others. I shall always remember your son as a very gallant soldier, a typical English gentleman, and a dear friend."

The senior chaplain writes: "It was an honour to know such a man as Colonel Walker. He was a man in a thousand, and one only wishes there were more men like him. His first thought was for those who were under his care. Indeed, it was through his care and thoughtfulness for his officers and men that he met his death. When the shelling began he stood in the open and ordered all his men under cover, and he would not move until he saw that all were safe first. A true and fearless soldier, standing at his post to the last; always cheery, a true Christian and English gentleman, one beloved and respected by all who knew him. His one thought out here was for you, his mother; you were always in his thoughts, and your name was often on his lips."

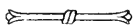
This filial piety, referred to by the chaplain, was a trait in Walker's character which I always admired.

Nimmo Walker's career is ended, and many a man might feel proud to be able to leave such a record. "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—JAMES BARR.—*British Medical Journal*, October 7th.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT G. D. GARDNER.

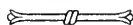
Second-Lieutenant Godfrey Derman Gardner, Suffolk Regiment, was educated at the Philological School, Marylebone, and studied at the Guildhall School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, where he obtained the gold medal and subsequently his F.R.C.O. His first organist appointment was at Holy Trinity Church, Westbourne Terrace, which he held for several years. He also was made Professor of Music at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W., and placed on the staff of professors at Queen's College, Harley Street. He was a member and organist for many years of the Royal Philharmonic Society, and was also organist of St. Giles's, Cripplegate, E.C. He enlisted in September, 1914, in the Queen's Westminster Rifles, and four months afterwards obtained his commission in the Suffolk Regiment. He was killed while leading his men into action on September 13th. His colonel, who has

since been killed, said : " He knew no man in the battalion more fit to meet his death." At the close of his sermon on Sunday evening the vicar of St. Giles's, the Rev. Nigel Morgan-Brown, spoke in high terms of the Second-Lieutenant and of the great sacrifice he had made. The Dead March in " Saul " was afterwards played by the acting organist, Mr. A. Austin Moody. On Thursday, at St. Giles's, Chopin's " March Funèbre " was played at the opening of the organ recital. His father has had the great honour of receiving from Buckingham Palace a telegram expressing the consolation of their Majesties the King and Queen.—*Court Journal*, October 13th.

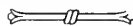


How the Blind " See."

A rather singular example of the way in which blind persons " see " by the " feel " of a thing came under my notice this week. An old lady, who has for many years been completely blind, paid a visit to an Erdington relative whose house lies well back from the roadway at the end of a lawn. The old lady suddenly disappeared in the twilight, and there was some anxiety as to her safety. " Where have you been ? " asked her grandson on her return ; and she replied : " To shut the front garden gate, of course. I could ' see ' it was open." She explained afterwards that the fact was conveyed to her by the air currents. The old lady can make her way quite easily through a kitchen in which chairs and footstools are left about indiscriminately, and never stumbles over them. She is guided entirely by the " feeling " of the air near where a heavy object is placed, and by the variation in sound of her own footfall. This latter explanation is exactly borne out by the blind gymnasts at the Edgbaston Institution, who informed me recently that they know exactly by " sounds " and changes of feeling in the atmosphere of the presence of obstacles.—ROBIN GOODFELLOW, *Birmingham Daily Mail*, October 14th.



It is no attempt to depreciate the splendid work done at St. Dunstan's, where blinded soldiers are taught to write, or, rather, " punch," shorthand, and then produce letters on the typewriter, that we recall the wonderful work of a Pressman on the staff of a Middlesex newspaper. This accomplished reporter attends public meetings and takes shorthand notes by punching dots in pads of soft paper with a kind of bradawl, afterwards " reading " the note by running his fingers over the raised surface on the other side of the sheets of the pad. He is wonderfully accurate in his work, and his memory is so developed that he very rarely has to ask his colleagues the name of the speaker if he has heard the voice one before.—*The North-Eastern Daily Gazette*, Oct. 16th.



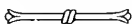
Useful Spending.

The American " Champagne King," Mr. George Kessler, has been rather severely criticised on account of the rather useless costly entertainments he gave. Therefore, when he is engaged upon some really splendid work it is only right that he should have equal prominence. The champion freak-dinner giver of the world is raising a fund of several hundred thousand pounds for the benefit of British, Belgian

and French soldiers blinded in the war. Mr. Kessler, who is very well known in the Bourne End district of the Thames, has given dinners in airships, in imitation farmyards, on horseback, in a bower of roses, and in gondolas. The latter affair, at the Savoy Hall, cost, rumour said, about £3,000, and among the guests were Edna May, Réjane and Caruso.—*Daily Sketch*, October 9th.



COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.—We are informed by the Hon. Registrar of the College that following a kind invitation from the Committee of the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, it has been arranged for the 1917 Examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind to be held at that School on the 22nd and 23rd May. The syllabus and regulations of the Examination is now ready, and can be obtained on application to the Hon. Registrar of the College, c/o The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, W.



National Institute Employment Bureau.

POSTS FOR TUNERS.

ARRANGEMENTS are now practically complete for the setting up of a small board of expert tuners, blind and sighted, to test the candidates we recommend for posts.

This board will not grant certificates as such, but the test will provide us with a guarantee that the men we send out are sufficiently equipped, either as improvers or fine tuners, for the work they will be expected to undertake.

We shall shortly be issuing an appeal to a large number of firms, beginning with the London area, asking them to apply to us when they have vacancies, and we shall therefore be glad to receive applications for our special tuning forms from all those who are seeking posts in factories or showrooms, or who would like day work.

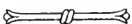
War conditions have made prospects unusually favourable, for it seems very evident that at present the demand for competent tuners is greater than the supply.

We have already found posts for six tuners, the wages of these per week being as follows:—£1 (an improver); 30s.; three at 35s.; one at Shanghai at £18 per month for the first year, £20 per month the second year.

POSTS FOR ORGANISTS.

A special form for Organists has just been drawn up, and we shall be glad to receive applications for this form from all those seeking posts in churches or chapels.

H. C. WARRILLOW.



Dogs for Blind Soldiers.

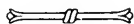
Preparations are being made in Germany, says the Wireless Press, to train a large number of dogs to act as guides and protectors of officers and men who have become blind during the war.—*Evening News*, Oct. 4th.

Regent's Park College and Blinded Soldiers. ✓

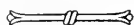
At the urgent request of Sir Arthur Pearson, Regent's Park College has been loaned to him to permit the extension of the work carried on for blinded soldiers at St. Dunstan's. The arrangement is for the period of the war and six months afterwards. The committee of the College in arriving at their decision have been actuated partly by the fact that the supply of ministerial students is inevitably stopped during the war, and as inevitably the number of blinded soldiers is increasing. The number of the College buildings, and their proximity to St. Dunstan's, make the arrangement ideal in every respect for the work in question. Arrangements have been made for carrying on the work of the College at Hackney College, all the present students being received into residence there. Dr. Gould, the Principal, and the members of the staff of Regent's Park will carry on their classes in Hackney College. Dr. Forsyth and the committee of Hackney College have shown the utmost kindness and cordiality in making these arrangements possible. It is of interest to note that during the negotiations Mr. Lloyd George conveyed to Dr. Gould his own deep interest in the matter, and his hope that this extension of the work would be possible. All this necessitates that Dr. Gould and Miss Gould should give up their home in the College, where they have been in residence for twenty years, and find a house elsewhere.—*British Weekly*, October 26th.



Discussions are now in progress in London for the purpose of organising the work in connection with the training of blind soldiers in Edinburgh. The Rev. Dr. Burns and Mr. Somerville Grieve had an interview to-day with the secretary of the Royal Scottish Corporation, and it is hoped to form an Advisory Committee from the representatives of the Scottish societies in London. Arrangements will be made to visit the Scottish soldiers in No. 2 Hospital in order to make known the opportunities available for training in their native country. It is hoped to come to an understanding with Sir Arthur Pearson, who has done such noble work in connection with St. Dunstan's, and thus avoid any waste of effort or competition between the two institutions.—*The Scotsman*, October 26th.



At the forenoon service in the Buchanan Street F.U. Congregational Church, Coatbridge, recently, a letter was read from the Rev. Donald M'Intosh, blind minister, Aberdeen, accepting the call to the Coatbridge Church, in succession to the Rev. Fred. J. Japp. A meeting of the congregation was held at the close, and the date of the induction fixed for November 19th.



St. Dunstan's Hostel.

Twenty-five men from St. Dunstan's Hostel, Regent's Park, I see have been set up in poultry farming, and are doing well, and they are all blind! It should make some of those who can see think a bit!—*Poultry World*, Sept. 29th.

Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE OCTOBER NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—Japan's Part in the War, by Robert Machray, from *The Nineteenth Century*—Breaking Through, by Estelle Blyth, from *The Saturday Westminster Gazette*—With the Battle Cruisers, by Alfred Noyes, from *The Times*—Spud Trevor of the Red Hussars, by "Sapper," from *Men, Women and Guns*—Supplement: The Battle of Jutland Bank—Admiral Sir John Jellicoe's Despatch (*to be continued*).

Progress.—Editorial—Matters of the Moment—Lieutenant Robinson, V.C.—Archangel—Our French Page—Our Prize Competition—Patriotism—Correspondence—Poultry for Pleasure and Profit—Grave and Gay—Question Box—Chess—How to take care of the Sick at Home—Our Home Page—Advertisements—Church Benefit Society—Inset: Song—"When you come Home" (W. H. Squire)—Supplement: "The Third Keeper" (Arthur O. Cooke) (*to be continued*).

Comrades.—Basil's Violin, by Mrs. Molesworth. Chapter VI.—The Fruit of Faithful Sowing (Anon)—Flying Machines, by the Editor. In Grade I. for the Little Ones—Odds and Ends.

School Magazine.—The Chimaera, from *A Wonder Book*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*to be continued*)—Monthly Almanack—Inventions of the Devil, by Frederick A. Talbot, from *Chambers's Journal*—The Voyage of the "Valiant," a Serial Story, by E. Le Breton Martin. Chapters X. and XI., from "The Scout."

Braille Musical Magazine Supplement.—"Musical News Comments" from *Musical News*—Russian Soldier Songs, by Rosa Newmarch, from *The Times* Russian Supplement—Our Tunes Column—Review: New Cathedral Psalter—The Music Trades Benevolent Society—July Notation Meeting—Royal College of Organists' Examinations—A Retrospect, by Dr. F. Bates—The Mathematics of Tuning—Insets: "Boyhood" (Idylle) Piano, C. Couldery—"Dans Les Vallées (Bagatelle), Piano, C. Couldery—"Sunrise" (Second Bagatelle) Piano, C. Couldery—"Devon, O Devon" (Song), C. V. Stanford—"Meg Merrilies" (Two-Part Song) C. V. Stanford.

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Lecture by E. Bellis Clayton, M.B., B.C. Cantab.—Nerve Injuries—How to Answer in an Examination—Lecture by Dr. Catherine Chisholm—Special Visits to Institutions of Interest to Masseuses—Correspondence—Notes by the Way—Official Notices.

* * * *

The Moon Magazine (in Moon type).—An English Woman's Adventures in the German Lines (*continued*)—Road Fourteen Hundred Miles Long—Killing Tommy's Fears—A Wonderful German Gun—Fashions Founded by Fighters—Where Sparrows are Golden.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

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The Braille Review.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO

:: THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND. ::

VOL. XIV.

DECEMBER. 1916.

No. 12.

Editorial.

THIS number is the last issue of *The Braille Review*, and the 1st of January, 1917, will see the publication of our new magazine, *The Beacon*. We are hoping great things of the change, and although we have no intention of issuing a magazine that will compete with those other monthly periodicals displayed so lavishly on bookstalls, we are going to endeavour to provide something that will serve a very definite object, namely, to keep alive the interest and sympathy of the sighted for those who are handicapped by loss of sight. We do not intend to try and set the Thames on fire, neither do we intend to make any preposterous claims as regards its future. We merely suggest to all past readers of *The Braille Review* that it is their duty, and it will also, we hope, be their pleasure to do all in their power to make *The Beacon* a success.

* * * *

We have received the following letter from Sir Arthur Pearson, which will, we are sure, be read with interest by all who have the welfare of the blind at heart :—

To the Editor of *The Braille Review*.

Something has happened recently to which I think the attention of your readers should be directed.

It is in connection with the efforts to raise funds which The National Institute for the Blind has been making in different parts of the country for some time past.

It has been generally predicted that these efforts, even though successful from the point of view of the National Institute, would be detrimental to the members of the blind community residing in districts in which they take place.

It has been my often expressed conviction that, wholly apart from the immediate benefit conferred upon local institutions by our efforts, we should succeed in arousing an interest in the cause of the blind, which, far from acting detrimentally for the future, would prove of the greatest benefit. My prediction has just been amply justified in South Wales. With the help of our staff of blind speakers and organisers we recently conducted a campaign in that district which resulted in adding appreciably to our general funds, to a special fund for the After-Care of Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, and it also yielded the sum of

£1,539 15s. 11d. to various local institutions for the blind, and there is still a small balance available for distribution.

The other day the Committee of the Cardiff Blind Institute determined that in view of the rising prices it was desirable that their augmentation grants to the blind workers in the Institute should be increased.

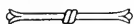
Mr. Ernest Coward, a Cardiff gentleman who had helped us very materially in our campaign, was approached on the subject. Here I should say that before the effort made by the National Institute, Mr. Coward took no interest whatever in the welfare of the blind; indeed, I believe that he was scarcely aware of the existence of the Cardiff Institution, and had never subscribed a penny to it, or to any other charity for the blind.

Mr. Coward immediately expressed his willingness to help in the matter, and sent out a letter to many of his friends, in which the following passage occurred:—

“Recently a very successful appeal was made in Cardiff by Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., on behalf of blinded soldiers and sailors, and we feel sure that the generous way in which that fund was supported proved that Cardiff will not only help blind soldier-men from the Front, and other worthy efforts for the benefit of the blind, but also those who have lost their sight from accident or disease, and who live in our midst.”

The result of this appeal was that he raised for the Cardiff Institute the sum of £3,000 in a fortnight, and this from people who had already responded to the appeal of The National Institute for the Blind.

The real fact of the matter is that interest aroused in the cause of the blind by such methods as are pursued by the canvassing staff of the National Institute are productive of a previously unknown measure of support for local blind charities both during our campaign and afterwards.—Yours faithfully, ARTHUR PEARSON, President, The National Institute for the Blind.



Re-Opening of the Organ at the School for the Blind.

FOR some weeks the organ in the Concert Hall at the Blind School, Swiss Cottage, has been undergoing alterations, and in addition to the rebuilding additional stops have been introduced, and changes made which have resulted in the organ being made in every way a modern instrument as regards action and mechanical arrangements. Some years ago a standard organ was evolved by the Royal College of Organists, and it was found that the organ at the School, excellent as it was, did not conform to that model, which seriously handicapped the pupils when they submitted themselves to examination upon the standard organ, which differed in mechanism and arrangement from the organ on which they had been accustomed to play. To mention one matter only, the position of the stops was quite different, a serious difficulty to a blind person. The conclusion was forced upon the Council that in order to provide their pupils with proper educational advantages, and to

qualify them for earning their living as organists, it was necessary to rebuild the organ according to the standard organ. This work has been carried out by Messrs. Bishop & Son, under the supervision—on behalf of the Society—of Dr. H. W. Richards, F.R.C.O. (Professor of the Organ at the Royal Academy of Music). The firm have added to the organ, as a gift, a new stop of the Gamba type, which in tone is of singular beauty.

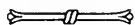
On Saturday the organ was re-opened by Dr. Richards, who gave a recital, which afforded the public an opportunity to judge of the improvements.

Among those present were the Deputy Mayor of Hampstead, Mr. T. F. Hobson, L.C.C. (Chairman of Council), Mr. Pretor W. Chandler (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Stewart Jobson and Mr. C. W. Brooks (who arranged the recital), the Rev. W. H. T. N. Rainey (Chaplain) and Mrs. Rainey, the Rev. C. J. Terry, Mr. T. Martin and Mr. J. M. Ritchie (the former and present superintendent and secretary respectively).

The recital was a musical treat. Dr. Richards played in a masterly and artistic style, and revealed the fine qualities of the organ. Chopin's "Funeral March"—which was most exquisitely rendered—was played in memory of Mr. Godfrey Gardner, the School's Professor of Music, who was killed at the Front in September. Dr. Richards concluded with Mendelssohn's "Ruy Blas," which was splendidly rendered, and he was heartily applauded.

Two solos were contributed by Mr. Howlett (organist of St. Peter's, Kensal Rise) and Mr. Hayhow (organist of Holy Trinity, Kilburn), two old pupils, both of whom are Associates of the Royal Collège of Organists, who played in a musicianly and talented manner; and vocal solos were contributed by Miss Norah Turner, whose finished vocalising was charmingly displayed, especially in "Abide With Me."

At the conclusion of the recital the company was entertained at tea.—*Hampstead Advertiser*, 23rd November.



Mankind in the Re-Making.

BODILY RECONSTRUCTION IN FRANCE.

SOMEBODY once reproached Watts with having made his "Hope" so melancholy a figure, crouching blindfolded over her broken lyre, and he replied that the whole point of the picture rested in the one unbroken string, from which all future melody must come. One remembers that reply when one sees something of what the French are doing for the re-education of the wounded. If ever a man might hope it is when he has lost his eyes or arms or legs; but the unbroken string is merrily played upon and made to give out cheery music.

Surgery to-day is less surgery than sorcery. At the Maison Blanche, near Paris, there are men amputated of both legs high in the thigh, who will shortly walk, sit, even kneel, with so little stiffness that they might pass for having but a slight touch of rheumatism. I talked to one man who excused himself for using sticks, smiling delightedly at his artificial legs, on the ground that he had only had legs for three days, "and one

has to practise running for the tram." The very stumps with which they are provided until the artificial limbs arrive are marvels of efficiency as compared with the butt-end of wood or cork. The limbs are combinations of fine but strong springs, set in a leather and aluminium mould, and so well made that a leg is guaranteed for a lifetime, for every part is easily renewable. The artificial arms are almost as wonderful, although they cannot restore a man to so many occupations as the legs.

The Maison Blanche, formerly a large asylum for women, is now a military hospital, with four separate medical staffs for its different branches. The artificial limbs are its chief occupation; but it has a ward for mad men and another for those called "the confused." Here the men looked well, but their set eyes had no meaning in them. One seemed to be conscious of nothing but a spray of lilac in a royal blue medicine bottle; perhaps he was the happiest. But the staff knew how much worse they had been, how much better they would be; and how much good work was going on. The Médecin-chef would be a sad man if his Maison Blanche could be surpassed. The head of the workshops, where the patients can have a preliminary training in several trades, from cobbling to accountancy, one after the other, if they choose, so that they may be sure of getting the right one in the end, talks of the 400 already earning their living as if they were 400 masterpieces, as, indeed, they are.

It is the same story at the Grand Palais, which was soon taken over by the sanitary service as a hospital. For twenty months it has been lighted, warmed, cosy; walled with packing cloth soaked in linseed oil and then coated with lime; each huge room fitted with a small one as a service chamber, and contains over a thousand beds. It has a complete installation of radioscopy, radiography, scientific gymnastics, and such an array of machines for teaching hands to hold, feet to walk, arms to lift, heads to turn, as constitutes an Arabian Night of wonders. Some of these machines on the Zander principle are extremely complicated; a terrific array of levers and wheels is necessary to move a finger in the right way; others are clever makeshifts, not very durable, but welcome as makeshifts. All the machines can be worked by the men unless they are helpless, and some have a whole programme to go through every day. Casts of the human body and its hurts and paintings of especially interesting wounds are kept. From some of these it is possible to teach anatomy to the blind.

If cheeriness is a characteristic of the maimed and the mutilated, the blind are positively gay. At the convalescent home at Reuilly, where they learn various trades, they sound from the garden like birds in an aviary. They can very soon distinguish a distant voice in a babel, and follow it, as the seeing can pick out a figure from a group, and watch it. In the room where blind dictators were reading aloud to blind typewriters this was very noticeable. In the brush-making department also conversations were going on comfortably across intervening men who were talking. In the big garden were blind men walking slowly, blind men on the arms of nurses, blind men holding each other; but also blind men walking freely from the hip, with a sure step, and stopping

or turning a reasonable distance before they came to a wall or other obstacle. To walk is the first thing they are taught.

The Braille printing department is on the system of M. Ernest Vaughan, Director at the Quinze-Vingts Hospital for the Eyes. Volunteers are wanted to take the small or large presses, and help in the work of making a large and inexpensive library for the blind. The small ones cost £10, take very little room, are worked with the utmost simplicity, and the big ones cost four times as much and work four times as quickly. No knowledge of printing or of Braille is required; any amateur can work the press and set up the sheets. The great numbers of blinded soldiers make this work particularly commendable to those who have spare time. At Reuilly, besides permanent books, the *communiqué* is daily printed for the men. Even men who could not read learn with ease to read Braille.

All over France this work is going on. The more a French soldier has suffered, the cheerier he is; and if ever one sees a long face it is a civilian's, mourning, perhaps, for the very soldier who uses Hope's last string.—*The Times*.



Appeal for Blind.

THE following letter has recently appeared extensively in the press:

Sir,—Recently Mr. Barnes addressed a question to the Prime Minister in the House of Commons as to whether the Government have given any consideration to the position of people such as blind persons, cripples, &c., who are not in receipt of wages, and therefore cannot participate in any war bonus, and whether anything can be done to assist these people to meet the increased cost of living.

The Prime Minister's written reply was:

I am aware that a number of persons in the position described by my right hon. friend must be suffering hardship consequent on the increase in the cost of living, but I am afraid I cannot say more than that their cases ought to make a special appeal to the generosity of the public.

Will you allow me to tell your readers that The National Institute for the Blind has been doing what it can to alleviate the strained conditions in which the poorer members of the blind community now find themselves.

During the first ten months of this year we distributed in weekly grants among them the sum of £4,171 14s. 5d., and at the present moment we are giving weekly relief to 429 very poor blind people.

Should any of your readers feel disposed to help in the relief of a section of the community on whom the present high prices fall with extra severity, and who from the nature of their case are peculiarly unable to help themselves, will they send a contribution to our special relief fund? Cheques should be made out to the Secretary of The National Institute for the Blind, and should be addressed to 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.—Yours, &c., ARTHUR PEARSON, President.

The Bright Side of Blindness.

HUMOUR AND PLUCK AT ST. DUNSTAN'S.

BY JESSIE POPE.

WHETHER blindness is to be a knock-out blow, or merely a handicap spurring a man to develop new powers, depends entirely on the point of view. And the point of view of the blinded British fighters at St. Dunstan's is not only illuminated by patience and industry, but by a decided sense of humour.

If a man whose world has been suddenly transformed by the war into a void of unbroken darkness—crossed by voices and hard knocks against unexpected obstacles—can be jocular over his troubles, then all I can say is the rest of us with two good eyes ought never to look on the dark side again.

A practical joke on a blind man is unthinkable, but at the hostel in Regent's Park they can and do play them on each other without the least remorse. Take an instance. Jim, late of the Lancers, likes a glass of beer with his dinner, and has it. Alf (Fusiliers), sitting next to him, prefers water. But see Alf's careful hand go groping along the tablecloth while the victim's attention is diverted by a conspirator the other side. Silently and successfully the foaming bitter is replaced by Alf's innocuous draught. The nudge goes round, but chuckles are checked till Jim takes a drink, sets the glass down hurriedly, and expresses his outraged feelings in suitable terms amid a roar of laughter all round the table.

It has been said that blind men lose their taste for tobacco, but this isn't the case at St. Dunstan's, though the men are not allowed to smoke in bed. One night the blind sergeant in charge of one of the dormitories heard the suspicious sound of a match being struck. "Now then," he called, "no smoking over there in that corner. I heard you strike a light."

"It's all right, mate," came the cheery reply. "I was only lookin' for me collar stud."

Most blind people like music, certainly the blind soldiers love it, and often appreciate a good old song better than the more modern variety. A short time ago Mr. Charles Coborn came to entertain them, and his rendering of "Two Lovely Black Eyes" was received with great applause. When the show was over, one of the boys came walking down the corridor, and was heard to sing in a strident but tuneful voice:

Oh, what a surprise!
Got 'em for ter telling an "Un" 'e was wrong,
Two lovely *glass* eyes!

Talking of entertainments, when a St. Dunstan's crowd goes to a variety show for a treat, sympathetic officials who pi'ot them to their seats are often mystified by a request for opera glasses, so seriously made that they have been known to supply them before realising the joke. But it is not only theatre attendants who have their legs pulled; occa-

sionally over-effusive visitors get a little of the same treatment. A well-meaning but prattlesome person engaged one of the boys in conversation in the Braille room.

"Oh, how wonderful you are!" she gushed: "but tell me, can you *really* manage to read? How *do* you do it?"

"It's easy, ma'am," he replied; "the type is embossed, and we read with our finger ends."

"And I see you have a watch," she continued. "Tell me, how do you manage to tell the time?"

"That's easier still, ma'am," he said, taking out his specially constructed timepiece for inspection. "You see, there is no glass, and the figures are embossed on the dial."

"But that's very interesting," she said, her glance straying up to the blind man's smooth chin. "But tell me, how can you see to shave yourself?"

"Why, that's easiest of all, ma'am," he replied. "You see, the shaving mirrors are embossed too."

Glass eyes are made to look so natural nowadays that perhaps there is some excuse for those people who fail to realise they are not useful as well as ornamental. It must have been a blood relation of the last questioner who remarked to another of the boys: "Your eyes are absolutely marvellous, but I suppose you can't see quite as well with them as with real ones?"

"No, not as a rule, miss," replied the blinded hero gravely; "but after we've gone to the dispensary every Monday and Thursday and had 'em washed we can see through 'em a treat."

They say an Englishman never knows when he is beaten. Certainly these boys do not. Loss of sight to them has meant a gain of indomitable pluck. Their spirit of independence and self-reliance fights the misfortune that has befallen them, and beats it every time. One morning one of the men, out for a little walk by himself, was standing on the kerb, his ears pricked for a chance to cross the road. While he waited some one touched his arm and pleaded to be taken across to the other side. The soldier readily assented, and at the next hull in the traffic piloted his protégé safely over.

"Thank you kindly," said the whining voice. "I wouldn't have troubled you, but I'm stone blind."

"Same here, mate," replied the soldier. "Cheero," and continued his walk.

There is none of the "pity-the-poor-blind" atmosphere about the Regent's Park Hostel. A little help is worth a deal of pity, and St. Dunstan's has been the Alma Mater of many a sightless soldier, setting him on his feet and making him his own man again.

The hostel is doing a great work. Put your hand in your pocket. Don't hesitate. Send as much as you can spare to the Secretary, St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, London, N.W. There never was a better cause. In these war nights, when lights are veiled, and you anathematise the Kaiser and all his works as you stumble along the darkened streets, remember that for those boys of St. Dunstan's the blinds are always down.—*Daily Express*, November 6th.

The Vicar of Brafferton.

REVIEW OF HIS FORTY YEARS' WORK IN THE PARISH.

THE Rev. Norman Frederick McNeile, M.A., completed forty years' service as Vicar of Brafferton on Friday, October 20th, and in commemoration of the event about 100 parishioners were entertained to tea and a social evening in the village schoolroom. In the course of the social gathering the Vicar dealt in a pleasantly reminiscent manner with his work in the village, and spoke of the many changes that had taken place during his vicariate.

Mr. McNeile, who is 70 years of age, is the youngest son of a former Dean of Ripon, the Rev. Hugh McNeile. Since attaining the age of twelve years he has been totally blind, but has nevertheless been a zealous and efficient vicar. He was educated at the Cathedral School, Worcester, and subsequently entered Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated. In 1872 he was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Worcester, and for two years laboured as curate in the cathedral city. In 1874 he secured an appointment at Ripon, and in the early part of 1876 took up a curacy at St. Paul's, Prince's Park, Liverpool. On Friday, October 20th, of the same year—the day coinciding with the completion of his forty years as vicar—he was instituted to the living of Brafferton by the late Archbishop Thomson at Bishophthorpe, and the following day was inducted by the then Vicar of Raskelf, the Rev. Thomas Hartley. The churchwarden at that time was the late Dr. C. A. Etches—father of the present churchwarden, Dr. C. G. Etches—who, up to the day of his death in 1906, proved a faithful friend to Mr. McNeile. The reverend gentleman is a valued member of the Committee of the Blind School, York; a member of the York C.M.S. Committee; and one of the Governors of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, the only institution of its kind in the world. Mr. McNeile is still full of vigour, and there is not a resident in the townships of Brafferton, Helperby, Thornton Bridge, Fawdington, and Humberton, who does not entertain for him the deepest and warmest regard. In 1881, five years after he became Vicar of Brafferton, Mr. McNeile married Miss Willink, only daughter of the late Rev. Arthur Willink, Vicar of Tranmere, Birkenhead. They have had no family. Mrs. McNeile is as well beloved throughout the parish as is her husband.

Mr. McNeile, in addressing his guests at the recent social gathering, said that during his forty years residence amongst them a good many changes had taken place. When he first went to Brafferton there was no church at Pilmoor, and services were held there monthly in a small cottage. But in the year 1881 the Church of St. Andrew was erected at a cost of £500, and being duly licensed, was consecrated in 1896. For a number of years services have been regularly held at Pilmoor, and two years ago a handsome parish room was erected there at a cost of £150.

Concerning the Church of St. Peter, Brafferton, soon after Mr. McNeile took up his work as vicar, a new pulpit in stone was erected to the memory of the Rev. R. Springett, a former vicar. The interior of the church had been reseated, and of the three bells which formed the original peal, the bell known as No. 2 cracked in the year 1885. It was re-cast, and three new bells, each bearing a suitable Latin inscription;

were added, bringing up the peal to six in number. The church has a flat roof, and the absence of any internal pillars or other visible supports had led a London visitor to remark on one occasion that the architecture was "refreshingly mad." In the church is a Saxon font, and the tower and chancel are of the plain thirteenth century stonework design. Early in the nineteenth century some attempt was made at restoration, and a marble tablet erected within the inner porch records the fact that "a new clock was placed in the tower of this church in February, 1867, at a cost of £90, of which sum one-half was contributed out of the fund raised for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the late John Roulston, surgeon, of Helperby, the other half being raised by special subscriptions.

A choir vestry had been built, with entry on the north side of the chancel, and four windows of stained glass had been unveiled on various occasions. The east window, subscribed for by the parishioners as a lasting memorial of the late Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887, depicts the appearance of Jesus Christ after the Resurrection. The south-east window portrays Crucifixion scenes, and is a family tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Joseph Brotherton, a former churchwarden. A south side window is in memory of the late Rev. Canon Gray, at one time vicar of Brafferton. It was erected by members of the family, and deals with the sorrows of Gethsemane. Another window on the south side, depicting Mary washing the feet of her Master, was given by Mrs. McNeile in memory of her mother, Sarah Wakefield Willink. All four windows are the work of Mr. C. E. Kempe, of London. In 1902 an oak reredos was placed behind the Holy Table as a permanent memorial to the late Queen Victoria, and six years ago oak screens were placed in the church by Sir Edward Coates, Bart., of Helperby Hall, and M.P. for Lewisham, as a tribute to the memory of his father, the late Mr. James Coates. In the village proper there was built in 1882 a new infant school at a cost of £600, to which a north side class-room was subsequently added as a tribute to the memory of Mr. William Buttery, who for a long period of years acted as school manager.

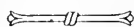
The population of Brafferton and Helperby is at present between 800 and 900. It formerly totalled nearly a thousand, but scarcity of labour caused many people to migrate a few years ago. Since the outbreak of the war upwards of 80 eligible men had joined the Colours, and the Vicar regretted to say that twelve of that number had made the supreme sacrifice. As they were well aware the residents of the parish were farmers and farm labourers, but he was glad to say that they were all working together as for the common good of one happy, united family.

The rev. gentleman mentioned that during the period of his vicariate there had been in the parish 924 baptisms, 574 burials, and 161 marriages. He had had no fewer than eight curates to assist him in the work. One of these, the Rev. Arthur Innes Hopkins, whose father was a former vicar of Clifton, York, joined the staff of the Melanesian Mission, and went out in the year 1900. Of the many things that had been attempted some had proved unsuccessful, but he was proud of the fact that in every case where an improvement had been carried out, not a single penny of debt had ever been registered. Those improvements could not have been effected had it not been for the cordial help and sound backing extended to him (the Vicar) on all occasions. — *The Yorkshire Herald*, Oct. 26th.

Blind Aid Society.

MR. F. W. JOHNS, 233, Brixton Road, London, S.W., writes to me to ask me to "kindly permit him to correct erroneous impressions created in regard to the Blind Aid Society, Brixton Road, by malicious publications in your recent issues." He must first allow me to correct his erroneous impression that any malicious references to the Blind Aid Society have appeared in *Truth*. All that I have done has been to call attention to the fact that the founder and organiser of that society, one Walter Blackburn, had been twice convicted of obtaining money for charitable purposes by false pretences, and to point out that the philanthropist with such a record is not fitted for the stewardship of charitable funds. Mr. Johns goes on to declare that the society does useful work, and invites me to satisfy myself in this particular by attending a meeting of the society at the Russell Street Church schoolroom.

It will be quite time enough to do that when Mr. Johns is in a position to inform me that Mr. Blackburn is no longer connected with the Blind Aid Society, and when he has supplied me with the society's published report and balance-sheet. As a matter of fact, I had been in communication with the late treasurer of the society, who had fully recognised the justice of my criticisms. I understood from him that Blackburn had resigned the secretaryship, and that the financial management of the society had been placed on a sound basis. He was a gentleman of position in whom every confidence could be felt, and I was hoping that I should shortly be in a position to state that the management was beyond reproach. That gentleman has, however, now resigned his office. I understand, moreover, that Blackburn has been requested to continue his connection with the society temporarily. When on top of this I receive an intemperate letter like Mr. Johns', it would be surprising if my impression of the society were not an unfavourable one. Still, I am quite ready to revise it when the facts warrant my doing so.—*Truth*, October 11th.



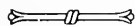
Sightless Professor's Lecture at Southampton.

MEMBERS of the Southampton Association for Blind Adults rallied in full numerical strength on Friday, October 13th, at their usual meeting place, Kell Hall, to listen to a lecture by a member of their own fraternity. Professor Stables made the startling announcement, in his opening remarks, that by means of the Braille alphabet the difficulties of inter-communication between the blind, deaf and dumb and sighted people had not only been overcome on paper, but so far minimised by extending Braille writing from paper on to the fingers that it might be now truly affirmed that the blind see, the deaf hear, the dumb speak, and stammerers are spared the painful ordeal of trying the patience and tempers of would-be listeners. Most of the blind present were already readers and writers by the Braille system, and it was but a short step to transfer the accustomed writing frame work to finer talk. Unfortunately there were many blind people in Southampton unable to either read or write Braille, and the lecturer proceeded to prove to his

audience that these served his best opportunity for exhibiting the facility and undoubted advantage of acquiring Braille first on the fingers and then by writing and reading on paper.

Braille was now learned on the clumsiest fingers with ease, and with certainty of touch and rapidity enough to master monosyllable conversation in a few hours, and the lecturer told of highly remunerative openings for the blind even of no education when qualified to converse on their fingers. It was the ambition of the London Provincial Blind Aid Society, under whose auspices they were called together to promulgate the method advocated until sufficiently popular to warrant its inclusion in every school curriculum under the authority of the education department, and to that end qualified teachers were in great demand, so that remunerative occupations awaited blind adults, irrespective of special educational attainments, provided always, and only that the facility be acquired of holding conversation on the fingers. The lecturer conducted his hearers through a short, simple, introductory lesson, concluding with an authorised offer from the Parent Society of a shilling each to everyone present able to repeat the Braille alphabet on the first two fingers of the left hand at the next meeting, when a hearty welcome would be extended to any blind adult from Southampton and surrounding districts.

[If our readers will refer to the article we reprint from *Truth* on p. 10 they will be able to form their own opinion as to the claims made by the London Provincial Blind Aid Society.—Ed. *B. R.*]



Big Extensions at St. Dunstan's.

THE heavy casualty lists of the last few months have yielded their proportion of men who have lost their sight, and in spite of the large temporary buildings which have been added to St. Dunstan's, bringing the number of men who can be accommodated there up to 200, it has been found that further room is needed.

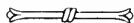
This has been secured through the generous action of the Committee of the Regent's Park College, who have agreed to vacate for the duration of the war their very large and suitable premises, situated next to St. Dunstan's, on the outer circle of the park. Arrangements have been made to carry on the work of the college in the meantime elsewhere, and in these arrangements the principal of the college, the Rev. Dr. Gould, and his staff, though put to great personal inconvenience, have acquiesced most cheerfully.

The college building is conveniently planned in every respect, and with comparatively trifling additions in the way of bath and lavatory accommodation will provide the room needed for about 200 more blinded soldiers and sailors. The grounds, though not so large as those of St. Dunstan's, cover some nine acres, and will afford a much needed extension for tuition in poultry farming.

Another most desirable annexe to St. Dunstan's has also been placed at the disposal of Sir Arthur Pearson and his co-workers. It is a spacious and admirably fitted house, with three acres of garden, situated close to Blackheath Common, which will be used for the temporary

accommodation of men who, while not requiring a long sojourn at the St. Dunstan's seaside annexes at Brighton or Torquay, need a quiet restful time before setting themselves seriously to the task of learning.

It is unfortunately the case that the gallant fellows who have lost their sight at the front recently have suffered more severe injuries than was the case in the earlier days of the war. The extended use of bombs, grenades, and high explosives of many kinds is the reason for this. The greater severity of the injuries received necessitates in many cases a period of rest and recuperation, for which the establishment at Blackheath will provide every facility.



Campaign in Birmingham for Sightless Heroes.

PAST experience has proved that appeals to the public of Birmingham on behalf of charity have always met with a ready and generous response, and there is no doubt that the same support will be given to the appeal which is about to be made on behalf of the training and after-care of blinded soldiers, sailors and civilians.

On the suggestion of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart. (President of The National Institute for the Blind) and the committee of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, the Lord Mayor (Alderman Neville Chamberlain) has opened a fund for these afflicted members of the community.

Hundreds of soldiers and sailors blinded in the war have already returned home, and are coming back from the front daily. The great majority are being trained and cared for at St. Dunstan's Hostel, London.

A circular has been issued for support, in which the Lord Mayor (who has consented to act as hon. treasurer of the fund) says:

I feel sure that many of my fellow-citizens will take this opportunity of showing their appreciation of the sacrifices these blind heroes have made for their country. The appeal has my warm approval and also the hearty co-operation of our local Institution for the Blind, whose excellent system of after-care will be extended to blinded soldiers and sailors.

The movement, which has just been initiated in Birmingham, was in charge of Mr. H. C. Preece (who lost his sight some years ago), and to a *Gazette* representative yesterday he referred to some wonderful results of the training at St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Preece is in control of a body of efficient blind speakers and organisers, whose efforts it is hoped will prove as successful in Birmingham and the various parts of the Midlands as they have done around Manchester and in the South Wales districts, where thousands of pounds were gladly subscribed to the fund, and the response by the working classes was remarkably good.

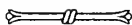
To-day the effort starts in real earnest. All classes of the community will be appealed to, meetings will be held at munition and other works, and appeals will be made in places of worship and places of amusement. Contributions should be sent to Mr. A. Wilson, 117.

Colmore Row, who is the Assistant Honorary Treasurer and Chairman of the Edgbaston Institution, or to the bankers, Lloyds Bank, Limited, Colmore Row.

By arrangement with the War Office, all blinded soldiers upon their discharge from the military hospitals are invited to enter St. Dunstan's, where "they may be taught to be blind." At the hostel everything that can be done for their comfort and training is done. The men lead very active lives. Braille reading, writing and type-writing are taught, and the occupations in which training is given include carpentry, boot repairing, mat making, basket making, and telephony. Instruction is also given in poultry farming, market gardening, etc.

Nearly 500 blinded soldiers and sailors returned home, of whom 120, through the medium of this excellent institution have become so efficient in one respect or another that they have been found situations, and on the average each earns 25s. a week. Upwards of 200 are now being trained at St. Dunstan's. Owing to the increasing numbers returning from the front, and to cope with future demands an extension of the premises is necessary, hence the general appeal.

Birmingham is to be the centre of the After-Care System. Touching on the general question, Mr. Preece said there were 10,000 employable blind in the country, and he expressed the hope that in the future such provision would be made as to enable them to become economic units of the community.—*Birmingham Gazette*, Nov. 14th, 1916.



Sheffield's Poor Adult Blind.

TO THE EDITOR *Sheffield Independent*.

SIR,—The result of the long overdue appeal by the Sheffield Institution for the Blind for additional funds resulted up to Saturday last in £117 15s. 6d. being contributed in new and increased subscriptions and £53 18s. 6d. in donations.

This is, indeed, valuable and timely help, and will be the means of providing sadly needed food, fuel and clothing for the indigent blind of Sheffield, about 170 of whom receive benefit at present.

My desire is that the figures given below may be taken to heart by the citizens of this great city, when I am persuaded a still more generous response will be forthcoming to the pressing need of those who suffer from poverty in addition to the grievous affliction of blindness.

I have visited several Institutions for the Blind in other cities, and the extent to which Sheffield lags behind is best gauged by the following tabulated comparison, which gives population according to last census, 1911; approximate number of adult blind receiving benefit in 1915, and annual subscriptions and donations for last year:—

Birmingham	...	...	525,903	400	£3,125
Manchester	...	...	716,180	278	£980
Leeds	...	...	445,967	335	£700
Bradford	...	...	288,695	392	£2,204
Northingham	...	...	260,425	200	£706
Sheffield	...	...	455,817	170	£249

Our own institution is indebted to the Sheffield Education Committee for a teaching grant and bursary amounting together to £245 and also to the two Boards of Guardians for generous grants for the maintenance of our blind poor to the extent of £320. But for these contributions our financial position would, indeed, be desperate.

It should interest our City Council, and especially our Tramway Committee, with its expanding profits, to know that the Bradford Corporation contributed £500 last year to their Blind Institution as a war bonus. The earnings of the adult workpeople in our Sheffield West Street factory, at trade union rates, supplemented by such additional bonus as the very limited funds at the committee's disposal permit, average 12s. 6d. per week for each employee.

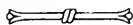
That pittance, at present food prices, is altogether insufficient, and cannot be called a living wage.

Our subscription and donation list for 1915 shows that our half-million people contributed £249 to the funds of the Institution, which works out at something like 7d. each per week for the 170 to whom we were able to give a little help last year.

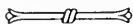
I am sanguine enough to anticipate that if these facts and figures are studied, and the necessities of our indigent adult blind clearly understood, our hon. Treasurer, Major Wortley, of 1, George Street, will have many receipts to fill up and circulate during the few weeks that remain of 1916.

In all probability we shall require in the near future to make provision for some of our gallant soldiers who are blinded in the war.—Yours, etc., HARRY FISHER, Tapton Mount, Sheffield, Nov. 14th, 1916.

P.S.—My remarks apply solely to our grown-up poor blind people, and not to the seventy blind children in the splendidly-equipped school in Manchester Road. This school, in addition to the munificent bequest of the late Daniel Holy, receives sufficient funds from the State Education Department to need no contribution from the public.—*The Sheffield Independent*, Nov. 15th.



A RAFT from the "Lusitania" formed one of the exhibits at "Our Day" sale at Turnham Green, for the benefit of the Kitchener Memorial Fund and the St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Sailors and Soldiers.



The Savoy Fair.

Queen Alexandra has given her patronage to the Savoy Fair, which will be held at the Savoy Hotel on December 6th, 7th, and 8th. Promoted by the Emergency Voluntary Aid Committee of the Empress Club, it is mainly designed to aid the St. Dunstan's Fund for the After Welfare of the Blinded in the War. There will be forty-three stalls, many of them on novel lines, and the stallholders include the Duchess of Rutland, Lady Diana Manners, the Countess of Portarlington, the Countess of Drogheda, Viscountess Reading, Lady Curzon, Lady Robinson, Lady Tree, Lady Pearson, and Lady Lever.

Obituary.

THE REV. ARTHUR CYRIL PEARSON.

THE Rev. Arthur Cyril Pearson died on November 8th at a nursing home at St. Leonards, aged 79. He was the father of Sir Arthur Pearson, the President of The National Institute for the Blind and the founder of St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded sailors and soldiers.

Mr. Pearson was at Balliol College, Oxford, and after taking his degree was ordained in 1862 by the Bishop of Manchester (Dr. Prince Lee). His first benefice was Drayton Parslow, Bucks, to which he was appointed in 1877, and he removed in 1886 to the rectory of Springfield, Essex, where he remained till he retired from active work in 1897.

Mr. Pearson was a diligent and devoted clergyman, and won the affection of the people to whom he ministered. To a much wider public he was known for his skill in puzzles, exemplified in two books, "Twentieth Century Standard Puzzles" and "Pictured Puzzles and Word Play." He was also the author of "One Hundred Chess Problems."—*Pall Mall Gazette*, November 10th.



Correspondence Chess Match.

WORCESTER COLLEGE v. ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE.

AN interesting chess match between these two colleges, which has been played through the post, has recently been concluded. Though the Worcester men were successful in winning the games on all the six boards played, the match was not so one-sided as the score 6 to 0 would indicate. Some of the Normal players made good fights before succumbing. A particularly good game was played on board 1, in which T. H. Tylor, the Worcester captain, defeated Mr. Merridan of the Normal.

Worcester College, which has not been defeated for two seasons, last week again defeated the Worcester King's School by $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$. Next week they are playing the Royal Grammar School over 12 boards. In addition to this they are engaged in a correspondence match against Harrow.

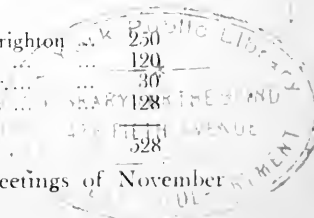


Blinded Soldiers and Sailors.

The following are the latest figures available concerning the blinded soldiers and sailors at St. Dunstan's:—

Number of men at St. Dunstan's or Torquay and Brighton	250
Number of men left and set up	120
Men left incapable of training owing to wounds, &c.	30
Men in Hospital waiting admission to St. Dunstan's	128

Being an increase of 84 between the Committee meetings of November and December.



Our Braille Magazines.

CONTENTS OF THE NOVEMBER NUMBERS.

Braille Literary Journal.—The Scene of War, by Odysseus, from *Blackwood's Magazine*—The Power of the Dog, by Dorothy E. Paul, from *Chambers's Journal*—The Headship of the Herd, by R. B. Townshend, from *Chambers's Journal*—The Old Inn—The Confessions of Tolstoy—Commanding in East Africa—The Death of an Alsatian Hero—Supplement: The Battle of Jutland Bank—Admiral Sir John Jellicoe's Despatch (*to be continued*).

Progress.—Editorial—Our Prize Competition: My Summer Holiday—Matters of the Moment—Planners of Victory: Sir Douglas Haig and Sir William Robertson—How the Prussian Guard came Home from the Somme, by D. Thomas Curtin—Our French Page—Prize Winner's Answers to Shakespeare Competition—Correspondence—National Institute Employment Bureau—Grave and Gay—Question Box—Chess—Advertisements—Report of "Channels of Blessing"—Inset: "Destiny" (Valse Sente), by Sydney Baynes—Supplement: "The Third Keeper" (Arthur O. Cooke) (*concluded*).

Comrades.—Basil's Violin, by Mrs. Molesworth, Chapter VII. (*concluded*)—The Sea-Gull, by Mary Howitt—Making Cushions, by Lady Mabel Smith—Autumn, by G. F. Bradley—Nigger, by the Editor. In Grade I. for the Little Ones.

School Magazine.—The Chimaera, from A Wonder Book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (*concluded*)—Transmission of Code Messages, from *Chambers's Journal*—Monthly Almanack—Science and Natural History: Concerning the Dobrudja, from *Illustrated London News*—The Men who beat Von Tirpitz—The Voyage of the "Valiant," a Serial Story, by E. Le Breton Martin. Chapters XI. and XII., from "The Scout."

Braille Musical Magazine Supplement.—"Musical News Comments" from *Musical News*—Music in Scotland, from *Musical Opinion*—Hymns and Congregational Singing, by Martin Shaw, from *Musical Opinion*—Mr. Keily's Lecture—Obituary—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—Correspondence—The General Question Box—Prizes for Musical Composers, from *Birmingham Daily Post*—National Institute Employment Bureau—Our Tuner's Column—Choir of 4,000 Children—Insets: "Lift up your Heads" (March), Organ, A. Guilmant—"Homeward Bound" (Song), C. V. Stanford—"Intermezzo" (Piano), J. Brahms.

The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (Braille Edition).—Editorial—Visits to Institutions of Interest to Masseuses—Lecture by Miss Violet Coghill, M.B.—How to Teach for an Examination—Correspondence—Official Notices.

* * * *

The Moon Magazine (in Moon type).—An English Woman's Adventures in the German Lines—Across the World to Enlist—Men who Hide their Faces—Breath Held for Ten Minutes—Up-to-date Burglar—The Empire's Smallest Colony.

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